

New high-speed mining equipment may have caused Selby flooding

By Richard Evans

The flooding which has closed Wistow colliery, the recently opened showpiece of British mining at Selby, north Yorkshire, may have been caused by the speed of production, using high-technology equipment.

Mining engineers believe the ultra-modern equipment may have contributed to the cracking of the water-bearing rock above the mine galleries which allowed 15 million gallons of water to rush into the pit over the weekend.

The mine's first production face, opened just three weeks ago, could be closed for months at a cost of £600,000 a week. The Wistow pit is one of five at the National Coal Board's £1,000m development, which is expected to produce 10 million tonnes of coal a year when completed in the late 1980s.

Mr Michael Eaton, the coal board's North Yorkshire area director, said yesterday: "The highly unlikely has happened. It

is something which we did not expect. We knew the rocks were heavily water-bearing but we cannot identify why they have broken. It may be that we have extracted coal at such a fast rate we have beaten the bend in the rocks."

Traditional mining methods, which are slower, allow the rock strata to settle as coal faces push forward underground, but the quicker new technology, means the rock may not be able to "bend" slowly but will fall and split instead.

The flooding began on Saturday morning at the rate of 2,500 gallons a minute. The water was diverted into a dead end underground roadway with a 22 gallon capacity, where it has been trapped.

Dozens of emergency pumps and miles of pipes have been brought in and coal board chiefs said yesterday they were "in control of the situation". Engineers have identified

three main breaks where the water is entering the pit, but Mr Eaton denied the flooding had been caused by error. "I could not accept it as a mistake by the mining engineers," he said. "I could not have thought of anything different that we could do - not on the first face."

He described the embarrassing flooding of the NCB "superpit" as a setback "but not a calamity". Mining equipment worth more than £3m is in the flooded area but it is hoped that much of it will be salvaged.

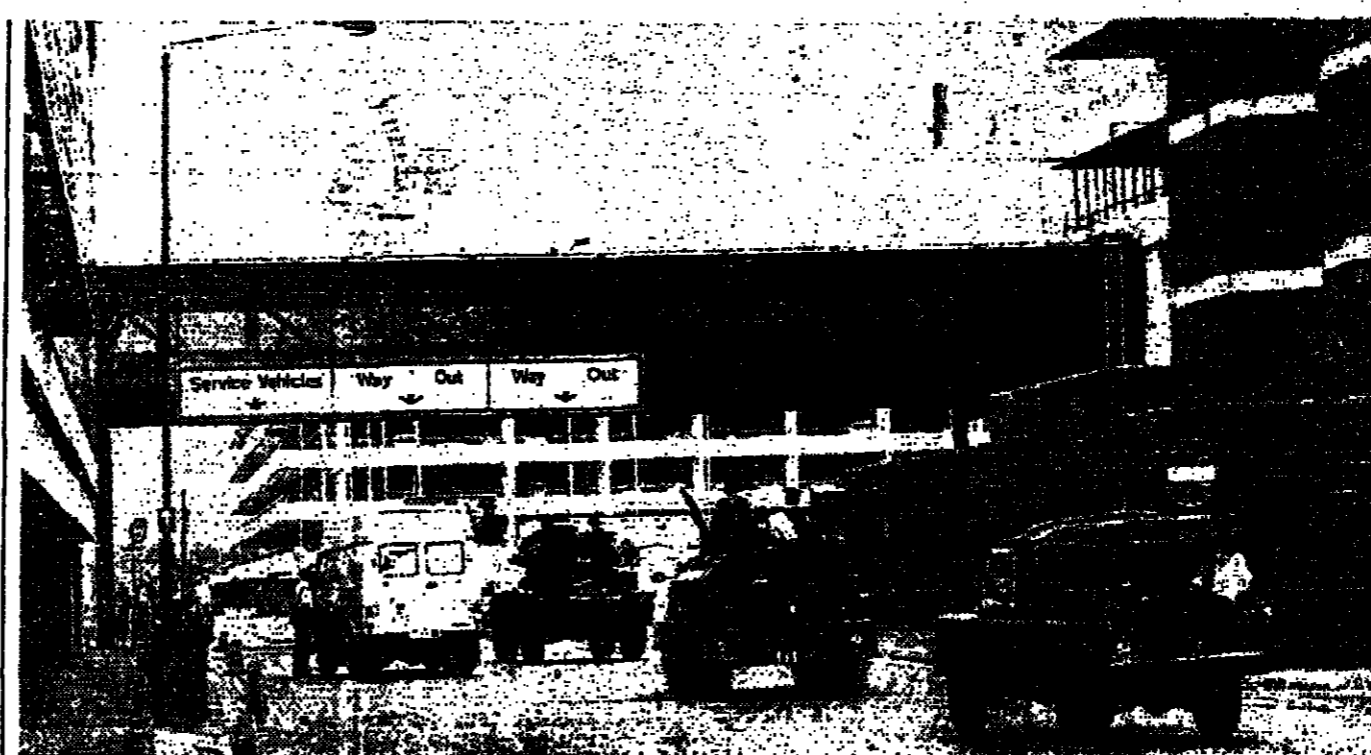
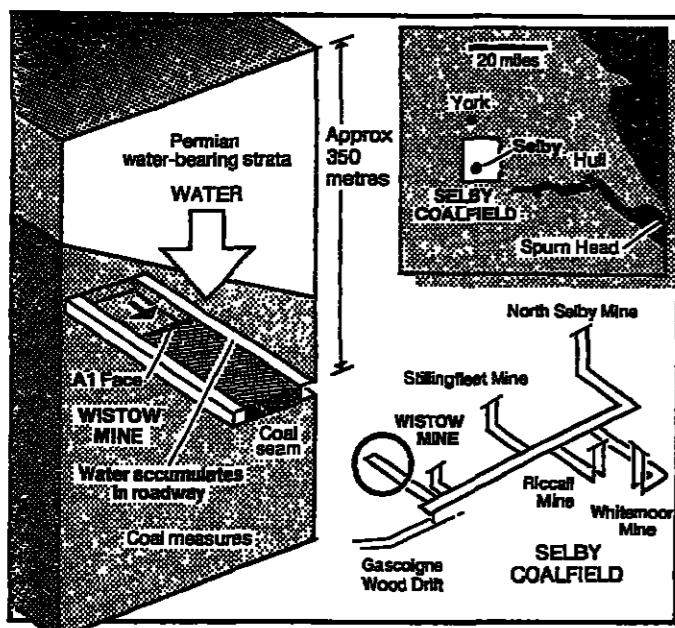
Mr Eaton said the second Wistow coal face should open ahead of schedule in November and none of the other development work in the Selby coalfield would be affected.

The flooding could hardly have come at a worse time for the NCB, which is technically insolvent. The face 1,000 ft underground was providing 20,000 tonnes of coal a week.

Pit managers at the Wistow mine and local officials of the British Association of Colliery Management conducted an on-the-spot investigation yesterday and will report today to a meeting of the union's executive in London, our Labour Editor writes.

Mr Alan Wilson, general secretary of the Association, confessed that managers were "non-plussed" by the water problems coming so soon after the formal opening of the colliery. "It is very disappointing," he added. "We are not yet in a position to assess how much of a setback it will be."

The industry's managers had a wealth of experience in dealing with strata that contain a large volume of water, but had not anticipated what appeared to have happened at Wistow. "Therefore we must examine the facts very carefully before any conclusions are drawn."



Army at airport: Armoured personnel carriers and Ferret scout cars at Heathrow airport, London yesterday during security manoeuvres by police and the Army. The manoeuvres, are described by the British Airports Authority as regular but follow a police warning of possible reprisals after Zaven Bedros, an Armenian terrorist, was jailed for eight years at the Central Criminal Court on Saturday. His three accomplices are still at large. Photograph by John Voos.

East Anglia to cushion health cuts

The East Anglian regional health authority has agreed to cushion the impact on its own eight districts of the Government's 1 per cent cut in health service resources this year.

The region will absorb just over half the expected cut from its own funds, in recognition of the difficulties facing the districts which are already four months into the current financial year.

The authority is confident that any adjustments that have to be made will also be absorbed from regional funds. It estimates that the region will lose just over £3m out of its current revenue budget of £31.4m, and a capital cut of £400,000 which can be covered by the region.

The region intends to meet £1,630,000 of the revenue cut from its own funds.

Smugglers 'chosen to win court sympathy'

By Peter Evans Home Affairs Correspondent

Drugs ring organizers choose smugglers who will appeal to courts' sympathies so that they can gain bail and abscond, if they are caught.

In a warning circulated to crown court judges, Judge Hilliard says that organizers of international smuggling rings study sentences and appeals with special care.

If, for example, elderly smugglers or mothers of children with holes in their hearts strike "a responsive chord with the judiciary", further couriers with "similar mitigation potential" are deliberately recruited.

The warning is in an article by Judge Hilliard in the *Bulletin of the Judicial Studies Board*, which includes judges and government officials. The board's bulletin is circulated to all crown court judges by the Lord Chancellor's office.

Judge Hilliard writes of the "surprising" proportion of alleged drug importers using Heathrow airport among people who abscond. The figure is disclosed by a survey of bench warrants issued at Reading Crown Court.

Of 131 warrants covering all kinds of crime, 66 related to one type of alleged offence -

Education cuts spare grants

By Lucy Hodges Education Correspondent

Universities are to take the brunt of the £30m cut in the education service, announced as part of the package of spending cuts by the Chancellor of the exchequer earlier this month, but the student grant will not be affected.

An announcement is expected in the House of Commons today to say that £20m will have to come off the universities' budget this year. The other £10m will be pruned from the Department of Education and Science's own running costs and from 15 to 20 other items.

This news is likely to be greeted with some relief in higher education circles because of the sums allocated to individual universities will be touched.

That means that the University Grants Committee will be deprived of money which it is holding on to for one purpose and presumably hoping now to spend on another. Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, was anxious to protect research and the grants to the research councils

DPP asked to rule on cliff deaths

By Craig Seton

The Director of Public Prosecutions is being asked to decide if any offence was committed during an incident at Newquay in Cornwall, in which two teenagers plunged over a cliff to their deaths while trying to escape from a gang of Scottish youths.

By yesterday police had interviewed all six members of the Scottish group who either came forward or were traced by police after the tragedy in the early hours of Sunday. They are understood to have told police that they did not intend to harm the group from Liverpool although they had been running and shouting.

None of the Scottish youths had been arrested or charged. Miles Thomas and David Stevens, both aged 17 and both from Liverpool, jumped over a wall and fell 60ft to their deaths after running away from a gang they thought was chasing them.

British Airways opts out of Airbus deal

By Michael Bailey

British Airways will not order the new 150-seat Airbus A320, partly because it fears a £400m order for about 20 of the new aircraft could make privatization of the airline more difficult. The news will come as a severe disappointment to Airbus Industries and its British partner British Aerospace, who put strong pressure on BA in recent months to place launching orders to help the project off the ground.

But bad news for Airbus does not mean good news for Boeing and McDonnell Douglas, the two American rivals offering replacements for British Airways' aging and noisy Trident. The likely outcome of BA's board meeting next month will be to place orders with none of the three contenders - nor to enter a leasing deal with them.

In BA's view the clever move in the present depressed state of the aviation and aerospace industries is to take advantage of low secondhand prices and lease aircraft with the help of independent finance houses.

Transport Editor

The highly attractive leasing deals being offered by the manufacturers tend to include strings leading to firm orders later.

A commitment to the A320 now, while is what Airbus need to get the aircraft off the ground by 1988, would also produce a balance sheet liability. A bank leasing deal, however, would not at a time when BA are keen to keep their books in the best possible shape.

The Government has a conflicting interest in the affair and has stayed largely out of it. On the one hand, it wants the A320 to succeed and provide employment and profit at British Aerospace well into the twenty-first century - Airbus think it could sell up to 1,000 A320s at over £20m each over a 20-year period.

On the other, it wants British Airways privatized at the earliest possible opportunity. The latter, being a short-term objective, probably takes precedence at the present time.

Dockland plant for Telegraph

The *Daily Telegraph* is to go ahead with its plan for a new £60m production plant on the Isle of Dogs, seen as a big boost to the rejuvenation of London's docklands.

The plan has been delayed during discussions with print unions over the introduction of new technology. The paper has made losses of £7.5m in the past three years.

Arm sewn back

Mrs Margaret Derriman, aged 32, had her severed ear and arm stitched back at Wexham Park Hospital, in Slough, early yesterday after her MGB sports car had overturned near her home at Burnham, Buckinghamshire.

Flying home

Thirty-five young musicians from the Gwent brass band, who are recovering from last Thursday's coach crash on an autobahn near Frankfurt, are to fly back to Britain today. Twelve of the band will remain for further treatment.

Council leaders reject cuts

By David Walker, Local Government Correspondent

Local authority leaders yesterday firmly rejected across-the-board spending cuts at the levels demanded by the Government's overall plan.

At best, Conservative-controlled councils might attempt to make savings, provided the Government gave "a realistic and attainable" target considerably in excess of official projections.

Even the loyal Conservative district and counties association leaders emerged from the Consultative Council on Local Government Finance, a liaison body for ministers and municipal chiefs, determined to resist what one called the "serious deterioration of services" which would follow if Government figures were adhered to.

At the consultative meeting, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of

Ulster loses 775 jobs in Goodyear plant closure

From Our Correspondent Belfast

Goodyear's industrial products plant in the Ulster new town of Craigavon, Co Armagh, is to close with the loss of 770 jobs.

An associated research and development centre, opened only three years ago, is also to close. Its workforce of 75 are mostly graduates. Payouts will begin on Friday and the closures will be completed by October 28.

Goodyear's Craigavon employees were given the news yesterday, when they returned to work after a two-week holiday. The public announcement was made in Belfast by Mr Gene Cullen, the American Chairman of the Goodyear (Great Britain).

He blamed the repressed British and European markets and low prices for much heavy rubber products as hoses, fenders and conveyor belts which are produced at Craigavon together with cling-wrap plastic film.

The factory, which once employed 1,800 was working at less than one-third of its capacity. It was losing some £700,000 a month. Losses this year already totalled £4.5m, he said.

Goodyear's decision, which had been feared for some weeks, was described as "another black day for the Northern Ireland industrial economy" by Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office.

Eire violence plea

Mr Peter Barry, the Irish Foreign Minister, last night pledged that his government would do everything it could to end violence in and from Ireland (Richard Dowden writes).

Speaking of Northern Ireland in Birmingham on the first day of his three-day visit to Britain, Mr Barry said that Ireland would work with Britain for a resolution "of this last great difficulty in our relationship". "We will work only by persuasion, we will progress only by consent," he said.

Sinn Fein visit

Mr Gerry Adams, Provisional Sinn Fein MP for West Belfast, is to begin a short visit to London today which will include meetings with Labour MPs at the House of Commons and a tour of several northern boroughs (Richard Ford writes).

He will meet Mr Ken Livingstone, the GLC leader and tomorrow plans to visit Brent, Hackney and Brixton, before speaking at a rally in Finsbury Town Hall.

Fight in court

Fist fights and uproar greeted the appearance of Raymond Gilmour, aged 23, an IRA supergrass in a Belfast court yesterday as he gave evidence against 25 people accused of more than 100 terrorist-style offences.

Gilmour, whose father, Patrick, has been kidnapped by the IRA, who threatened to kill him if his son gave evidence, had been in the witness box for 40 minutes when his mother began to weep and shout. RUC officers dragged her from the court and Gilmour resumed his testimony in a calm voice.

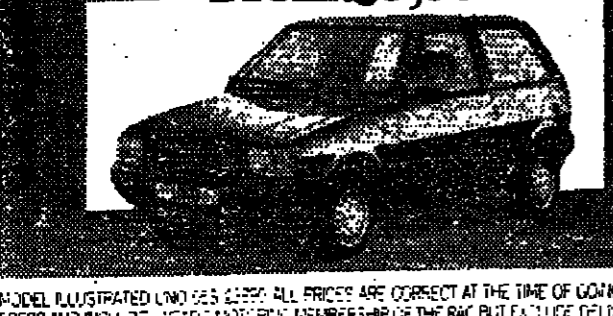
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Curbs sought on Soviet shipping

By Michael Bailey Transport Editor

Free world governments were urged yesterday to impose quotas on Russian shipping to counteract the steadily-growing commercial and military threat posed by Soviet merchant and fishing vessels.

Since 1960 Russia has built up the world's biggest merchant fleet numerically, with 800 ships, and has risen from fourteenth to sixth place, in tonnage terms, according to a new study published in Britain and the United States.

Its authors include Captain Vladimir Lysenko, a former captain in the Soviet fishing fleet, Admiral William Mott of the National Strategy Information Centre, the United States defence "think tank" and Sir Ronald Swayne, former chairman of Britain's biggest liner shipping group, Overseas Containers (OCL).

The study is published in the United States by the Strategy



Captain Lysenko: Warns of Russian threat.

Centre, and in Britain by Arms of Industry, a free enterprise lobby supported by more than a thousand British commercial firms.

Urging the West to wake up to the threat, Captain Lysenko said at a London press conference yesterday that Russia had built up a large fishing fleet, although it was impossible to buy fish in the Soviet Union.

and a massive merchant fleet, all of whose officers were also officers in the Soviet Navy.

All Russian ships were available for military, political, and propaganda purposes and for undermining Western shipping and destabilizing world trouble spots.

Every Russian ship including those in the Port of London, had its KGB officer, and every captain carried a sealed letter, to be opened only on receipt of a coded message from Moscow, instructing him to revert to full naval status within three days.

Mr Michael Ivens, director of Arms, said that governments would be pressed for a quota on either the earnings or cargo carryings of Soviet ships in free world waters. An "equalization fund", might also be introduced whereby Russian subsidized rate cutting, would be countered by taxes levied on it.

The Challenge of Soviet Shipping (Arms of Industry, 40 Doughty Street, London WC1N 3LF. £3.50p). Leading article, page 11

Sale room

High prices for erotic pictures

By Geraldine Norman Sale Room Correspondent

A German enamelled cigarette case with a brightly painted cover picturing an Arab slave vendor uncovering a dark haired woman wearing nothing more substantial than a ribbon and a few jewels was bid to £7,700 (estimate £500-£600) at Sotheby's yesterday.

The most remarkable feature of the bidding battle was that it ran between two women, one calmly holding up her hand and the other jumping up and down with excitement and distress at bidding such a high price for a small but perfectly painted dirty picture.

The cigarette case was one of a collection, dating from

around 1900, some with erotic scenes painted in enamel on the covers and others with similar paintings hidden on secret panels in false lids. The cases were made of "silver coloured metal" which is the official description of silver if it is sold without an assay mark. Most of the cigarette cases came from Germany, though some were made in France, Britain or America.

A case with a secret panel depicting a "pampered grisette" undressing in a marble bathroom sold for £1,760 (estimate £500-£700) and another with a pretty nude teasing a monkey who pulls off her silk robe made

£1,650 (estimate £500-£600). Most of the bidders for the erotic picture boxes were women.

The sale of silver, silver small work and works of art totalled £134,536 with 19 per cent unsold. It included a collection of vesta cases, or boxes designed to contain matches, most of them incorporating a striking surface. They dated mainly from between 1880 and the First World War.

With match boxes, as with cigarette cases, naked girls were the favourite decoration. About 40 vesta case collectors went to the sale and bid fiercely and seriously

Metropolitan muddle

Finding someone to take the reins

By David Walker Local Government Correspondent

In Brotherton House, the old police headquarters building in the centre of Leeds, there is a computer which controls the traffic lights not just of Leeds but of Wakefield, Huddersfield and Bradford as well.

In theory a traffic snarl-up in Pudsey can produce tail-backs in Keighley and the computer is there to sort it all out. It is operated by the West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council and, barring an outbreak of war between Leeds and Halifax, will always require to be operated by some authority spanning the great Pennine conurbation.

Who will control the computer when, as the Government intends, the West Yorkshire county is abolished? It is questions like that which have recently focused attention - perhaps for the first time since they were set up in 1974 - on the operations of the six giant counties covering the main built-up areas of the Midlands and the North.

The first table sets out the six with their population, many of whom have only the faintest notions of what this upper tier of councils does or even where they are. Many are the motorists driving north on the M6 who on crossing the Irwell viaduct do a double-take at the road sign announcing they are in Greater Manchester, when Manchester and Stockport are many miles distant and the nearest town is Warrington, which is in Cheshire.

This wide degree of civic ignorance will ensure that there will be few popular demonstrations against abolition before the date recently confirmed by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, April 1, 1986. But by then it is likely that people will have a clearer idea of their functions, if only because of the mass of

THE METROPOLITAN COUNTIES

	Population	Net cost of all services per head (millions)
Greater Manchester	2.5	128
Merseyside	1.5	161
South Yorkshire	1.3	158
Tyne and Wear	1.1	156
West Midlands	2.6	115
West Yorkshire	2.0	132

Where the money goes in the six

Service	Spending per head of population (£)
Police	24
Roads	27
Bus and train subsidies	24
Fire	10
Refuse disposal	5
Planning	2
Other services and admin (e.g. grants, airports)	24
Total	138

material now being poured out of county public relations offices.

Most important in money terms, as the record table shows, is running the police. The metropolitan counties provide a majority of members of the police authority for each county, which also includes magistrates. In spite of the mostly proud reputation of such city forces as Sheffield's prior to 1974 there is no suggestion that police should now be devolved.

Along with police, the counties operate the other protective service of fire, which costs about £10,000 a year for every man, woman and child in the county areas. The other expensive items in the counties' budget are the repair and maintenance

of main roads and traffic control and, more controversially, running public transport.

The bus service of South Yorkshire has become a symbol of where the metropolitan counties - now all Labour controlled - and the Government differ. Fares have not been raised in the area (which covers Doncaster, Sheffield, Rotherham and Barnsley) for nearly a decade. The county this year is paying £37.74 per head of population to subsidize the buses and a further £10 a head to pay for concessionary fares for old people.

One reason why the metropolitan counties have never settled is because of overlap between their functions and metropolitan districts beneath them. Some districts, including Labour authorities, ask why there needs to be a separate planning, land reclamation and recreation budget at the county level.

The Government is to publish a White Paper in September outlining its plans for the counties. It will have "greenish edges", Mr Jenkin said, to take account of criticisms. County councillors and their officials are convinced that a cool appraisal of their work would show a need for the metropolitan counties to continue; they may not be popular, they say, but someone has to run the traffic lights computer and the money to pay for it has to come out of some tax or rate-payer's pocket - unless the Pudsey traffic is to be permanently snarled up.

Overseas selling prices
Austria £4.00, Belgium £4.00, Denmark £4.00, France £4.00, Germany £4.00, Greece £4.00, Ireland £4.00, Italy £4.00, Japan £4.00, Korea £4.00, Netherlands £4.00, Norway £4.00, Portugal £4.00, Spain £4.00, Sweden £4.00, Switzerland £4.00, Taiwan £4.00, Thailand £4.00, Turkey £4.00, United Kingdom £4.00, United States £4.00, West Germany £4.00, Yugoslavia £4.00

Zoo where tigress killed two keepers took risks, Aspinall jury told

Corners were cut and "unfortunate risks" taken at Mr John Aspinall's zoo near Canterbury, leading to the deaths of two keepers who were mauled by a Siberian tigress, it was told yesterday.

To care for the animals, things were just overlooked. The things caused the deaths of these two men," Mr Aspinall said. Mr John Aspinall, 54, who runs the zoo, was told by a jury at Canterbury Crown Court.

In the first case of its kind, Aspinall's company, Howes and Port Lympne Estates, was charged with failing to ensure the safety of its employees.

Mr Brian Stocks, aged 29, a tiger keeper, who died in hospital on August 21, 1980, and Mr Robert Wilson, aged 28, who was mauled in separate attacks on the tigress, Zeya, after they entered its enclosure at Howes Zoo.

Mr Aspinall, aged 54, who runs the zoo, was told by a jury at Canterbury Crown Court. The company is accused of failing to ensure the safety of its employees. Mr Stocks was attacked by Zeya while wearing a cub, and Mr Wilson was attacked after Zeya had moved to an enclosure adjoining that of the cub.

Mr Reide said that zoo-keeping experience should have dictated that a keeper did not enter the big cats' enclosure alone. At Howes, as for as the big cats were concerned, there were no rules, either written or understood, he alleged.

After the death of Mr Stocks, Zeya should have been destroyed, Mr Reide told the court.

Mr Wilson died because Zeya scaled a separating fence 10ft 2in high in its enclosure to attack him.

Although he was accompanied by other keepers, they were unable to beat the tigress off.

The fence, Mr Reide alleged, was too low for safety.

This particular tigress had built up a reputation of being difficult to handle and with the birth of its cub it became more aggressive and its attitude to the keepers changed, he said.

Mr Oliver Graham-Jones, a veterinary surgeon, told the court that Siberian Tigers were the largest of their species, weighing up to 400 lb and measuring 10ft from nose to tail.

"It is recognized that in captivity, these animals are capable of profound feats of strength and aggression."

Mr Graham-Jones, who has written a guide for keepers who look after animals including big cats, said: "I believe an overhang at the top of a fence will prevent an animal crossing it. The lowest fence I have ever seen keeping an animal in is 12ft with an overhang above that."

Mr Graham-Jones continued: "There must have been some very important reason why Mr Stocks went into that cage alone. I have no idea what that reason could be. It would have been absolutely essential to obtain assistance and authority to enter the cage."

"If I was there and this happened and Mr Stocks had lived I would have reprimanded him at least."

The case continues today.

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Sounding off: Self-styled "Major General" Barry Nuttall, aged 34, commanding officer of the Allied Azis Society of Military enthusiasts, reviewing his "troops" before driving from Hull to London yesterday with a petition for the Prime Minister. He took a

700-signature petition complaining about the bull-dozing of his house and headquarters in what was Melbourne Grove, Hull, under an eviction and compulsory purchase order. He is now living under canvas.

Judge tells Adamson jury it must be certain of evidence

The jury hearing the trial of Mr Peter Adamson, the *Coronation Street* actor, at Burnley Crown Court was told by the judge yesterday that it had to be sure of the evidence and should ignore "emotions and suspicions".

Mr Adamson, aged 53, of Old Road, Bury, Greater Manchester, who plays Len Fairclough in the television serial, has pleaded not guilty to the indecently assaulting two girls aged eight at Haslingden swimming baths last April.

Judge Lockett was speaking after counsel for the prosecution and the defence had completed their closing speeches. He will deal with Mr Adamson's evidence today and the jury is expected to consider its verdict later today.

The judge told the jury of eight men and four women: "Mr Adamson is your fellow man and he is entitled to demand of you to be treated as such and in no other way."

"You, members of the jury, in the very name of justice and fairness, must disregard what you know of his professional life save what I shall mention later and the publicity this case has attracted."

"I have put it as strongly as I can and I ask you to note my words carefully and seriously."

The judge said that everyone, including the defendant, had felt some sympathy for the little girls who had to give evidence.

He added: "I ask you to put away from your mind emotions and suspicions and try this case on the evidence. Emotions and suspicions will not help you one jot."

On the question of the evidence from police officers at the pool, the judge said: "The officers had denied comparing their recollections. It is a matter for you what you make of that."

The evidence was that there was no collaboration, but if the jury found the evidence was tainted then it must approach that evidence with the greatest possible caution.

"Only if you are satisfied that a witness is honest and correct should you give weight to their evidence", Judge Lockett said.

He said that if the jury was sure of Mr Adamson's guilt it could convict him.

"If you are sure he is innocent it follows that you must acquit him, but if you are not sure of his guilt, your duty is plain. Your duty is, you must acquit him."

On the question of indecent assault, he told the jury that to touch the girl indecently Mr Adamson would have to have a clear intention in so doing.

The judge told the jury that the prosecution case was that the incidents were "not an innocent escapade".

He said: "But that is a matter for you whether you draw that conclusion. You have to be sure weighing all the evidence up that it does drive you to that conclusion before you can draw it."

"I must give you a careful and clear direction and a serious warning. The evidence of the first girl is unsworn evidence and you have to decide what weight you would give to that evidence."

On the evidence of Det Con Maurice O'Neill, the judge referred to the incident when he and a policewoman said they saw Mr Adamson put his thumbs into a little girl's swimming costume.

"There have been minutes, nay an hour, spent in this court considering that movement", the judge added.

This movement lasted 15 seconds at the most, and more probably 10 seconds, according to the evidence, the judge said. "This is a very short time. I ask you to bear that in mind."

"Anyone can put a nasty view on anything if they are so minded. The evidence points to the defendant playing and enjoying himself, and the children enjoying themselves."

Child rescued
Fabio Lambertini, aged three, was rescued by firemen yesterday after he climbed 20ft scaffolding on a half-built house near his home in Clevedon, Bristol, and fell into a first floor room.

Buttons job for Will the Wisp tracker

By David Hewson
is Vac. The under-five section of the *Radio Times* needs an editor. Ability to write, type, and keep track of movements of Will o' the Wisp and Postman Pat distinct advantages.

The vacancy at the helm of *Will o' the Wisp* may not set Fleet Street alight, but it will be warmly welcomed by a section of the nation's middle-class mothers. Since the weekly magazine came into being a decade ago, its circulation has risen to nearly 100,000 on the basis of accurate listings of when viewers can tune into the adventures of Morph, Leon Street, and other BBC children's programmes.

Lynn Williamson, the *Radio Times* editor, is returning to her native New Zealand, and chief, Mr Dennis Hooper, editorial director of Polytechnic Publications, hopes her replacement will be someone with a teaching background to instill the magazine's educational aspects.

Mr Hooper becomes ruffled by the *Radio Times* described as a comic. Since Polytechnic of British Electric Television, already owns two real-time, he feels qualified to own the difference.

"The children's weekly market has not changed much 20 or 30 years, except that a lot of the stuff being produced is not as good as it was 20 years ago," he said.

At 24p a copy, it is only a penny cheaper than the *Radio Times*, which includes the programme details in a daily less colourful form.

It is mostly written by people who produce the programmes for the BBC's children's programmes featured in its pages. In return, Polytechnic pays the BBC a fee for using programmes.

Mr Hooper and Grandmorph - the children's favourites.

40% of brides accept danger of divorce, survey shows

By David Nicholson-Lord

New evidence of the way divorce is eating into the fabric of British life comes today in a survey showing that more than 40 per cent of brides accept that their marriages may not last for ever. Fewer than a tenth will be virgins when they marry.

The findings emerge from a survey of *Wedding Day* magazine readers, largely youthful ingenues who might be expected to take a rosy and traditionalist view of matrimony.

Almost all are marrying for the first time, two-thirds still live with their parents and 92 per cent are having a white wedding. Yet 41 per cent accept the possibility that their marriages may not be permanent. Important differences were also disclosed between the attitudes of virgins and non-virgins and the success of parents' marriages also coloured views.

Forty-two per cent of non-

virgins accept a possible marital break-up, as against 28 per cent of virgins. The figure was 39 per cent among those who consider the parents' marriage a success, compared with 50 per cent among those who regard parents' marriages as having failed.

There was, however, no difference in the expectation of break-up between those planning weddings in churches and in register offices. That is possibly because only 34 per cent were motivated by religious views in planning a white wedding. "Tradition" was cited by another 34 per cent, parental wishes by 10 per cent and other reasons by the remaining 22 per cent.

The survey was based on 645 *Wedding Day* brides-to-be, with an average age of 22, and the magazine is concerned to emphasize the more reassuring findings. In 83 per cent of the

impending marriages, the man proposed, and in 17 per cent of cases that took place either a romantic dinner or with the male on bended knee - the two most favoured situations.

Only a fifth of brides had been living with their grooms and the most popular reason for marriage, favoured by 42 per cent, was security and commitment. According to the magazine, the attitudes disclosed by the survey are surprisingly conservative and romantic.

Nevertheless 72 per cent are in favour of pre-marital sex, 15 per cent think it is up to the individuals and only 7 per cent are against it.

But most brides will be doing the traditional household chores; 78 per cent said they will be doing most of the cooking and 91 per cent of grooms will do most of the cooking.

New ruling may give parents cane options

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

A consultative paper giving parents the right to contract out of having their children caned at school is expected to be published this week, 18 months after the European Court of Human Rights ruled on the issue.

Publication of the paper, which will have to be followed by legislation, represents the minimum the Government action to meet the European Court's ruling. It was condemned immediately as fatuous and unjust by STOPP, the anti-beating pressure group.

The Department of Education and Science confirmed yesterday that consultation would be only on the question of how to implement a contracting-out clause and not on whether contracting out is the right way to meet Strasbourg's judgment.

The judgment centred on the limited question of whether children could be beaten against their parents' philosophical convictions because in the two cases last year neither of the boys had been beaten.

However, parents had expressed the desire that they should not be beaten and their sons were suspended from school when they refused to accept the tawse, a leather thong applied to the hand in Scottish schools.

Mr Tom Scott, of STOPP, said yesterday that it was stupid of the Government not to ban the cane altogether in England and Wales because within three years the European Court would tell the United Kingdom to do so.

Lord Mackay, the Scottish Lord Advocate who argued last year's Cosans and Campbell cases in Strasbourg on behalf of the United Kingdom Government, said contracting-out was no solution.

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Jail governor tells of threats to kill him

Mr Gerald Schofield, aged 42, assistant governor of Parkhurst Prison, told Isle of Wight magistrates yesterday that he was tied up and held hostage for 18 hours at the top-security jail by two prisoners armed with knives, who threatened to kill him. The prisoners eventually gave themselves up and Mr Schofield was released unharmed.

The prisoners, John Thomas Bowden, aged 26, and James McCaig, aged 27, are charged with unlawfully imprisoning Mr Schofield and threatening to kill him.

Mr Graham Grant-Whyte for the Director of Public Prosecutions, said that during the period of negotiations Bowden set a deadline of two and a half hours, after which Mr Schofield would be killed.

Later the prisoners said that every half hour that elapsed after the deadline a wound would be inflicted on him. At one time Bowden called-out: "I am serving a life sentence with 25 years recommendation, so I have nothing to lose."

Mr Schofield said that after he had told McCaig his parole application had been rejected, McCaig returned to the governor's office while he was interviewing Bowden and



Mr Schofield: Broke parole news to prisoner.

pushed furniture against the door. "Bowden got up and took hold of me. I shouted no, no, don't be silly."

"They tied me hand and foot with strips of sheeting and put me in a corner. Next I remember Bowden phoning the *Daily Mirror* and having a conversation about prison service injustices, according to his point of view. He also phoned prison officials and told them if any attempt was made to break into the room I would be killed."

Mr Schofield agreed that he had talked about personal matters with the prisoners sometimes, about wives and families. The hearing continues today.

Cancer rate 'average' at nuclear site

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Deaths from cancer among workers at British Nuclear Fuels at Sellafield (formerly Windscale) in Cumbria, are no greater than among the population in general, the company claimed yesterday.

Conclusions are based on an analysis of recorded death certificates of 11,500 male workers and former workers at the waste nuclear fuel reprocessing plant between 1948 and 1980. In the period there were 400 deaths from cancer, and this Mr Peter Mummery, director of health and safety for the company said, was slightly lower than might be expected among such a group on the basis of national figures.

He said the small number of deaths from conditions such as leukaemia, bone and thyroid cancers and multiple myeloma, which were regarded as particularly susceptible to radiation, were also in line with the pattern of disease in the population in general.

Six cases in which compensation had been paid, totalling £200,000, were special circumstances. Although the cause of the cancer was not known conclusively, radiation at work was one probability.

Police seek M6 witnesses in Caroline Hogg case

By Arthur Osman, Birmingham

Police investigating the murder of Caroline Hogg, aged 26, appealed to lorry drivers and motorists who were at the day East service area on the M6 near Penrith, Cumbria, on the night of July 8 to contact them.

They said that three witnesses came forward to tell of a lorry driver who was in the service area with a girl aged 26 and a boy aged 16 and 17. The man and the girl had been standing near the sales desk between midnight and 2 a.m. The child appeared to be wearing a dark blue duffel coat and a hood up.

Police said they had ended roadside searches on the A6 near Twycross where the body of Caroline Hogg was found last week. In a 72-hour period since last Friday they had checked 4,378 cars but it was admitted, "We have no positive line of inquiry from this."

Two Scottish detectives who had planned to fly to West Germany yesterday to interview a German tourist who was in Portobello, Edinburgh, on the day Caroline Hogg disappeared, were delayed by legal procedures.

Det Chief Supr Brian Cunningham, who emphasized that Herr Fritz White was wanted only as a possible witness, said that "official procedures were necessary before Herr White could be approached."

In Loughborough, Leicestershire, an inquest on the child was opened yesterday and adjourned indefinitely.

Greenham slogan raid embarrasses ministry

The RAF Ministry of Defence police have launched an investigation into security at the planned cruise missile base at Greenham Common, Berkshire, after anti-nuclear slogans were daubed on two American aircraft there early yesterday.

A top secret plane, the Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird, and a KC-135 air-to-air tanker were parked on the airfield after the weekend air show at Greenham Common. The perimeter wire was cut on the south side of the base where the first of 96 cruise missiles are due to become operational in December.

The concrete missile bunkers are in a special security zone protected by two tall wire fences, topped by barbed tape. The Blackbird, normally based at RAF Alconbury, Cambridgeshire, is equipped with cameras and sensors enabling it to look as far east as Poland, from a flight path along the East-West frontier.

Security at the base, where 1,500 United States Air Force personnel are stationed, is handled by Ministry of Defence police, RAF police and United States field security police.

Seven women were taken to Newbury police station yesterday and charged with criminal damage. They were bailed to appear in court on August 18.

The MoD is clearly embarrassed about the daubing incident, which happened despite a tightening of security.

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Lawson forced to make statement on share sale

BP SHARES

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced in the Commons that he intended to raise £500m by the sale of a further tranche of shares in BP.

Mr Lawson agreed to make an oral statement after protests during energy question time and later about his intention to make the announcement in a written reply.

The Government was accused of subterfuge and there were protests from Mr John Smith, the Opposition spokesman on energy, Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, and Mr John Biffen, the leader of the House, told MPs that Mr Lawson would make an oral statement after all.

After Mr Lawson had made his announcement, Mr Smith said: "It would have been better if he had made this oral statement in the first place rather than having to be dragged to the despatch box in order to give information which Parliament is entitled to receive."

Will he give an undertaking that he will not embark any more sales of public assets without declaring that intention to the House so he can be questioned about the particulars of the sales and the technique to be adopted?

Will he also undertake that the forced sale of the Wyth Farm oil field and the British Gas Corporation assets in the North Sea will not be proceeded with until there has been a proper debate in this House?

Bearing in mind his lamentable record in the sale of American International and British, what technique is to be adopted in the sale of BP shares which will avoid some of the disasters for which he has been responsible previously?

What possible justification is there for a national policy that whenever there is a public enterprise making a profit it has to be sold and the loss left with the taxpayer?

Mr Lawson: The only matter germane to the question is a courtesy to the House and on that I am very sensitive. There are precedents in this matter, there have been previous sales of BP shares.

After detailing a number of previous sales of BP shares, he continued: "The previous sale was by a Labour Government. What happened on that occasion was there was a statement to the House by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer in connection with an agreement with the IMF which referred to the intention to sell some BP shares. No details were given."

The operation, which occurred in 1979, was an offer for sale and there was a written answer that day.

Mr Garry Walker (Keighley, C), who had asked for a written answer, said: "What he has said and what the Government is doing is no grand precedent but merely a repetition of what the Labour Government did. This has been a wild goose chase."

Mr Lawson: He is quite right.

Dr David Owen (Plymouth, Devonport, SDP): The real precedents were in 1979 and 1977 and on both occasions the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced to the House the sale of substantial BP shares and it is this that has been absent from the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, and that is what the House has objected to.

What about the specific promise that he gave to the House on October 31 1979, when he elaborated on the terms of sale when he said the prospectus would recall that the Government did not intend to sell any more of their present holding in the company?

What about the further assurance he gave to the House on March 12 1980 when asked for a reaffirmation of the undertaking in the prospectus when he said that there was no intention in the foreseeable future of selling any more of the Government's shareholdings? If the forecasted future is from March 1980 until now, he has some explaining to do.

Has the financial situation since the election so deteriorated that the Government now has to go back on its prospectus and the commitment it made in it?

Mr Lawson: I can assure him that what I have now said is fully consistent with the undertaking given in the prospectus. If he doubts my word he can consult any reputable lawyer. Could he have foreseen that he could not have been a member of the Labour Party?

Mr John Evans (St Helens North, Lab): Was the suggested sale of BP shares in the Cabinet by the New Secretary of State for Energy persuading his colleagues that this would be folly?

Mr Lawson: Sale of BP shares, as with sale of BP shares, is not a matter of the Treasury and is my responsibility as Chancellor.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selby, C): It is a curious argument that governments need to own great national assets for the public. It is better to sell these assets and ensure that they are not used to keep down public expenditure to the detriment of damages public services or to increase income tax which damages other companies. It is better to sell sensibly to raise



Lawson: There are precedents



Smith: Lamentable record

capital that long term strategy is not damaged.

Mr Lawson: I agree.

During questions to Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, earlier in the day, Mr John Evans (St Helens North, Lab) asked Mr Walker to deny the front page story in *The Times* that the Chancellor was about to finance further sales of publicly-owned assets.

To sell off public assets such as British Petroleum and British Oil would be a monumental folly, he said.

Mr Walker: I do not agree. Already the majority of BP is owned by the private sector. The Chancellor will make his announcement at the appropriate time.

Dr Owen: Were the Government to sell off BP shares it has a duty to the taxpayer at least to sell only when it can maximize the taxpayer's return. There could not be a more unfortunate time than now. Mr Walker said the judgment as to how and when to sell was a matter for the Government, which would have to defend it.

Mr Timothy Eggar (Enfield North, C): Will he go further than simply considering the sale of BP shares and consider introduction of private capital into British Gas and the electricity supply industry?

Mr Walker: The Government made clear in its election manifesto that it was interested in seeing what areas of the public sector it could sensibly and rationally see moved from the public sector to the private sector. These examinations are taking place now.

Mr Allen Rogers (Rhondda, Lab): This dogmatic policy of returning our natural energy resources to private industry is a disaster course and likely to lead to a situation like that immediately after the First World War when a royal commission said that such resources were too important to be left to private greed and speculation.

Mr Walker: I sympathize with his old fashioned socialist views but I disagree with them.

Mr John Smith: Today the Chancellor proposes to make a written answer indicating which sales will take place of assets within his own responsibility. It is disgraceful that Mr Walker cannot tell us during energy questions what these are to be so that MPs can question him. It is a symptom of the arrogance of this Government that it wishes to

use a subterfuge to declare its policy and then scurry off for the recess without proper opportunity for debate.

Mr Walker: No. Dr Owen on a point of order. It is normal practice for oral questions to take precedence over written questions which come within his own responsibility, such as those about BP and gas and oil assets, with the excuse that the Chancellor will make a written answer which has clearly been put down with the understanding, to put it no higher, of the Government.

Will the Chair rule on the matter? Mr Smith supported Dr Owen's point of order but the Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said he was not responsible for answers by ministers, nor could he anticipate the content of the written answer.

Mr Timothy Eggar (Enfield North, C) asked Mr Walker when he expected to dispose of the British Gas Corporation's offshore oil interests.

Mr Walker: I hope to complete the disposal of BGC's offshore oil interests as soon as possible.

Mr Eggar: Would he confirm that he has no intention of letting the sale of offshore oil interests take as long as the offshore oil interests and that the oil assets will include not only producing assets but also prospective acreage?

Mr Walker: Yes, I confirm the latter point. I have no complaint about the manner in which over the period I have been responsible progress has been made where both offshore and onshore disposal are concerned.

Later, after repeated points of order by Dr Owen, Mr Smith and Mr Biffen, the Leader of the House, said the Chancellor of the Exchequer would make a statement.

The Speaker had had to call repeatedly for order as Mr Lawson's speech was interrupted by Mr John Biffen, the Leader of the House, who was sitting on the Government front bench during the protests. Mr Smith had accused the Government of gross contempt of the House and gross arrogance. Mr Evans, asking the Speaker to look at the story in *The Times* today which forecasted the Chancellor's expected statement, said there was a great danger that secretaries of state or ministers at the Crown Office, confronted with oral questions they found embarrassing, would get round them by asking Conservative MPs to table questions for written answer.

MPs on why they should not take a holiday

SUMMER RECESS

The House should not disperse for the summer recess until it had heard something from ministers about their attitude to a new, steady and assiduous organization called the Association of London Authorities. Mr Geoffrey Henshaw (Hampstead and Highgate, C) said during a debate on the motion for the summer adjournment.

The association was a body being set up at the expense of London ratepayers to change the rules of the game. Ministers would be asked to treat it as a proper body that should have consultation. They should not fall into that trap. It ought not to require much time to give the sort of answer which the association's request for recognition demanded.

I hope (he said) that ministers will try before the recess that they will totally disregard the Association of London Authorities for all purposes and will not recognize it as anything other than a front organization for the Labour Party.

Mr Frank Cook (Stockton North, Lab), in a maiden speech, said unemployment in his constituency was over 23 per cent at the time of the last statistical publication. There were some areas in Cleveland with male adult unemployment exceeding 60 per cent.

It was little wonder that Mr Thatcher chose to avoid the north east in her recent campaign itinerary. They were constantly reminded of the need for harder work, for greater efficiency, higher productivity and more effort.

Yet MPs were being asked, with constituencies like Cleveland, to consider a 12 week recess. Such a thing was unthinkable, he said, and he would not be expected.

Sir Paul Hawkins (Norfolk South West, C) said if Conservatives were honest, they won the election so overwhelmingly because the Labour Party was completely out of touch with the average voter. He was determined to see that this Government was not out of touch by the time of the next election.

The House of Commons has denied election the weapon of capital punishment that they wanted in the fight against violent crime. He wanted an assurance that there would be other deterrents against violent crime.

He personally did not like the thought of 15 to 20 years imprisonment. When you have been behind bars for five years you are a changed man. But if the public was to be protected then this would have to be done.

He wanted an assurance from the Government that it did not accept people should go without work for large slices of their life and the government was working all out to create jobs for every man, woman and child.

The Government must make it quite clear to the public beyond possible doubt that it was not determined to defend the country

but were also prepared to strive just as hard for peace.

Mr Alfred Morris (Manchester, Wythenshawe, Lab) said he wanted an end to the cruel way in which the new youth training scheme discriminated against disabled young people. In *The Times* on July 5 Sir Terence Beckett (Director General of the CBI) had painted a glowing picture of the scheme, but the view of disabled young people and their parents was not so approving.

Mr Francis Montgomery (Aldershot and Sale, C) called on the Government to grasp the nettle of giving postal votes to people on holiday during a general election and said the Government should say when it was going to put right this wrong. He also wanted a fairer system of rating.

They could look more at privatization because greater use of private enterprise could lead to substantial savings for ratepayers without a reduction in services.

Now that they were assured of another five years of Conservative Government, he hoped that the Prime Minister would look again at the rates problem.

Mr Donald Coleman (Neath, Lab) said that the problems of South Wales must not be ignored by the House nor by the Government. The miners of South Wales were not best at the destruction of the industry, but on its success and prospects.

They were saying that the Government should get off their backs and allow the miners and the coal board to get on with the business of mining coal.

Ministers should forget ideology and realize that the mines were not suitable candidates for privatization.

The railways board should be given funds to increase efficiency and the crackpot ideas like those in the Serpell report should not be implemented.

Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke on Trent South, Lab) made a series of proposals to deal with the terrifying conditions being suffered by the mentally handicapped in long-term institutions.

He asked the Government to attack the national health service and failed to deal with the scandalous and atrocious conditions that these people had to live in.

It seemed the Government wished to keep the treatment of the mentally handicapped secret because these conditions had been kept under wraps except when there had been leaks to newspapers.

There had been 18 reports from the development team and 17 of these had been kept confidential. The covered 30 years, 50 hospitals and 30 homes.

Some things were beyond belief. The situation was patchy in different parts of the country but out of ten cases of job changes, nine were pension reductions.

I detect (he said) growing resentment by many people. But solving the problem was not

easy. With Government backing the pensions interests, the insurance companies and pension funds, should seek to transfer the burden between job leavers and the stayers through a voluntary clearing house through whose mechanism the pension entitlement could be easily and swiftly transferred. That would require underpinning of minimum pension rights by legislation and campaign of awareness.

But nothing was for nothing. Employers, leavers and stayers must contribute to help the change. But if the pensions interests were unwilling or unable to embark on a solution, the Government must think again about the need to undertake this difficult task.

He had a plan of action. First, there should be an independent public inquiry into all the development team's reports and the responses by the health authorities. Families were anxious. The public was concerned.

Secondly, there should be a special ombudsman for the mentally handicapped. This would deter maladministration.

Thirdly, the development team should be free to go wherever it liked at any time, without notice. Its reports should be made public.

Fourthly, transfer from institutions should be accelerated but not made without proper resources for those living in the community.

There are glaring injustices (he said) and suffering is being caused. This is not a party matter because no government has solved this problem. But this Government is exacerbating it. Conditions are inhuman and inhumane.

Mr Robert MacQuibbin (Brentwood and Ouse, C) drew attention to the growing problem experienced by people who changed jobs and experienced loss of pension because of this.

At a time of high unemployment, he said it was essential to have maximum mobility of labour so that people could take advantage of a job offer no matter where it existed. But people were being penalized; in nine out of ten cases job changes had their pension entitlement reduced.

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Cheysson to hear Cuban views while on Latin American tour

From Diana Geddes, Paris

M Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, left Paris late last night for what is described officially as a two-week "voyage of rediscovery" to Central and Latin American countries, including Colombia, a member of the Contadora Group, and Cuba, which has not been visited by a French Foreign Minister since the Castro revolution in 1959.

M Cheysson's visit, which was arranged several months ago, comes at a time of sharply mounting tension in Central America. It will be the first time that he has visited the area since he accompanied President Mitterrand on an official visit to Mexico, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica in August, 1981. This time he is due to visit Brazil, the biggest and most powerful Latin American country, from July 26 to 30. Bolivia is the only Latin American country with a democratically elected Socialist government, from July 30 to August 2. Colombia, which has always had close ties with France, from August 2 to 4; and Cuba, which has a special importance in the present Central American conflict, from August 4 to 6.

M Cheysson's visit to Colombia will come immediately after the visit by Mr Richard Stone, President Reagan's special envoy to Central America, who is currently in the middle of a week's trip to all four Contadora Group countries to discuss the "Declaration for peace in Central America" issued by the four presidents in Cancun on July 17.

The critical situation in Central America will also feature prominently in M Cheysson's talks with the Colombian government with which France's traditionally harmonious relations became somewhat strained after France's decision to sign an arms contract with Nicaragua in December, 1981.

No "offensive material" was included in the contract, but France's gesture of support for the left-wing Sandinista government was nevertheless fiercely criticized by several countries, including the United States. Two ferry boats were delivered to Nicaragua within the last few weeks as part of that contract.

There is no question of any new arms contract at present, but France continues to maintain friendly relations with the Nicaraguan government.

An official French delegation visited Managua last week, to take part in the annual talks provided for under an agreement for economic, cultural and scientific cooperation, signed in 1982. The delegation was due to have been headed by M Christian Nucci, Minister for Overseas Development and Cooperation, but he was ill.

In Brazil, where there has recently been a clear movement towards greater democracy, France hopes to extend its existing economic cultural ties to include closer political links.

In Bolivia, one of the poorest Latin American countries to whom France owes a debt of gratitude for having expelled Klaus Barbie, the former SS officer now awaiting trial in Lille, accused of crimes against humanity, M Cheysson hopes to bring France's support to a still fragile fledgling Socialist government. The question of financial aid is expected to be at the top of the agenda.

Cuba is expected to be the most difficult stage of M Cheysson's tour.

Managua warns US of 'apocalypse'

Managua (AFP) - Señor Tomas Borge, the Nicaraguan Interior Minister, has warned the United States of an "apocalypse" in Central America if the Reagan Administration failed to act "with prudence and wisdom" in the area.

Speaking at a ceremony on Sunday night marking the 300th anniversary of the birth of South America's great liberator, Simon Bolivar, Señor Borge said the dispatch of an American fleet to Nicaraguan waters as part of six months of joint manoeuvres with Honduras threatened not only Nicaragua but all Latin American nations.

He also attacked what he called Washington's "policy of symmetry" in comparing guerrilla activity in El Salvador with "counter-revolution" in Nicaragua.

There was no comparison whatsoever between the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) in El Salvador and former National Guardsmen of the ousted Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza who were guilty of "aggression" against the Managua regime, he said.

● SAN JOSE: Mr Richard Stone, President Reagan's special envoy to Central America,

appears to have failed a second time to meet Salvadorean insurgent leaders (Martha Honey writes).

After a weekend of confusion and secrecy, official sources close to Mr Stone in Panama said that he spent the weekend "on the beach" and had not met the leaders of the FMLN.

An official US announcement late on Friday said that Mr Stone would be at an undisclosed location all weekend led to speculation that he was engaged in or preparing for a meeting with Salvadorean guerrillas either in Panama or Costa Rica.

A scheduled meeting in Costa Rica between Mr Stone and the FMLN fell through at the last minute earlier this month.

● SAN SALVADOR: Eighty civilians were murdered in El Salvador last week, 32 of them by unidentified paramilitary squads, Mgr Gregorio Rosa, the Auxiliary Archbishop of San Salvador, said here on Sunday.

In his weekly sermon, he asked the Government to stop "violations" of people's homes which he said were carried out at night by armed men dressed in civilian clothes.

Nurse jailed for murder freed because of cancer

Delhi (AFP) - A former Canadian nurse serving a life term for murder here has flown home after the Supreme Court granted her a one-year release for treatment of advanced ovarian cancer, reliable sources said yesterday.

Marie Andrée Leclerc, aged 37, convicted with a Frenchman for the murder of an Israeli tourist in 1976, left for Levis, Quebec, over the weekend.

Miss Leclerc was set free by the Supreme Court last Thursday after an Indian medical expert confirmed she was suffering from cancer of the ovary in the secondary stage.

Announcing the move, the judge said: "She was punished with imprisonment for life by the courts; but nature has

punished her more severely." There was no cure for cancer at this stage, he said, and even the best treatment in India would only prolong her agony.

Her release was based on the condition that she promised to return to India within a year after her departure and that she report to the Indian High Commission in Canada every three months.

The court also ordered that a surety deposit of 1,50,000 rupees (about \$10,000) put up by two Canadian missionaries in India be forfeited if she failed to return after a year.

Both she and her French accomplice, Charles Gurmukh Sobhraj, have other cases of cheating, forgery and abetting murder pending against them.

EEC clash on herring quotas

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Highly controversial new figures for dividing up the herring in the North Sea were put before EEC fisheries ministers when they began a two-day meeting in Brussels yesterday. They offered Britain and Denmark scarcely half the tonnage each was seeking and all but wiped out the amount for Belgium.

The figures were worked out over the past 10 days by a group of experts drawn from each member state. But even the basis chosen for calculating the figures was contested hotly by ministers from many countries when the meeting began.

Fixing the herring catch has become the key to agreement on quotas for all fish in Community waters this year. The failure to reach a compromise has meant there is now a total ban on herring fishing in the North Sea, which in turn means that Norway - which is affected by the ban - is considering excluding EEC boats from its waters.

The figures put to ministers yesterday would give Britain only 23.23 per cent of the catch compared with the 35 per cent it was seeking and the 26.11 per cent it was offered at the beginning of the month. Denmark, on the other hand, is being offered 22.11 per cent compared with 9 per cent at the start of the month. But this falls far short of the 40 per cent it has been demanding.

Australia accuses six of plot

Melbourne (AFP) - Six alleged mercenaries are to be prosecuted on charges of plotting to overthrow the government of the Comoros Islands in the Indian Ocean, it was announced yesterday.

The decision of Senator Gareth Evans, the Australian Attorney-General, was announced when three of the men appeared in a Magistrate's court charged with breaches of the Foreign Incursions Act.

Mr William Lugg, Mr Dieter Burjevic and Mr John Meyer were arrested on board the yacht Sinbad in Portland harbour on Australia's southern coast in March.

The federal police said that the men were planning to sail to Reunion island in the Indian Ocean, where they would pick up weapons, explosives and troops. They would then sail to Grande Comore, the biggest of the Comoros Islands, and attempt to overthrow the Government of Mr Ahmed Abdallah.

Three other men have been charged in Australia with taking part in the alleged coup. Mr John Pilgrim, a British citizen and unemployed merchant seaman, was due to appear in court in Perth later yesterday while Mr Edward Greengrove and Mr Frederick Patrick had already been released by magistrates in Perth, who ruled that the Attorney-General has delayed too long in deciding to prosecute. They will now be charged again.

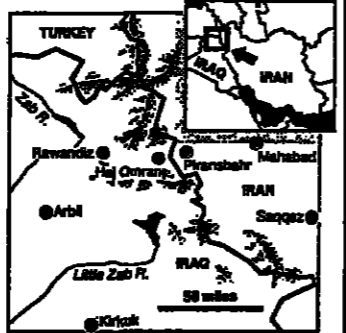
Iran digs in 'nine miles inside Iraq'

Tehran (Reuters) - An Iranian offensive into mountainous northern Iraq entered its third day yesterday with Iran claiming it had consolidated positions up to nine miles inside enemy territory.

Military analysts in London said Iran's offensive appeared limited in scope, in line with Tehran's declared policy of waging a war of attrition rather than seeking outright battlefield victory.

Iran's apparent aim, one said, was to keep Iraq on a war footing, maintaining pressure on the Iraqi economy and thus to grind Baghdad to an economic standstill and bring down the Government of President Saddam Hussein.

Diplomats said the new bout of fighting also appeared linked as much to Iran's long-running conflict with Kurdish tribal rebels as to the war with Iraq.



Gemayel presses for a referendum

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon yesterday renewed his call for a referendum, under the auspices of the United Nations, to determine the views of Lebanese in the Israeli and Syrian-occupied zones towards the "legitimacy" of his Government.

He was speaking during a meeting at the Elysée Palace with President Mitterrand. He was on his way home from the United States.

"In those parts of the country where the Lebanese Army is, freedom and democracy are assured 100 per cent", Mr Gemayel said after the meeting, which was held at his request. "In those parts which are under foreign occupation, there is repression and the gagging of all national voices." Mr Gemayel first called for a referendum in the occupied zones soon after his election in September.

The question of an increase in the multinational peace-keeping force, to which France has contributed 2,000 men, had not been brought up as such during his conversation with Mr Mitterrand, he said.

Indian MPs in riotous assembly

From Michael Hanly, Delhi

The monsoon session of the Indian Parliament got off to an appropriately stormy start as members held up the business of the Lok Sabha (lower house) with noisy protests, and Opposition members of the Rajya Sabha (upper house) staged a melodramatic walk-out because they were not able to have a debate they wanted.

While a sudden downpour outside the colonnaded Parliament House drenched latecomers, members inside argued to raise all current matters of dispute between the Government and the Opposition in the course of the first few hours of the sitting. This was despite the fact that the lower house, was adjourned without conducting any business save the swearing in of new members and the paying of tributes to a former Speaker who has just died.

While a new National Conference member from Jammu and Kashmir was called to be sworn in, a



Making the best of it: Life goes on for Beirut's citizens, regardless of fighting in the mountains, shelling of the city and almost daily car bombs. Damaged buildings can be seen behind the beach.

Israel rules out building of 'Maginot line' in Lebanon

From Robert Fisk, Bissri, southern Lebanon

The River Awali, Israel's new defensive line in southern Lebanon, is scarcely a river at all, hardly even a stream but more a trickle of water that meanders over pebbles through a narrow gorge just south of the Chouf mountains. Despite their impending withdrawal to the river, the Israelis have not even begun to prepare military positions along the southern bank and Israeli officers now insist they will permit all civilians free passage across the river.

"It is not our intention to cut Lebanon in half," an Israeli major said yesterday as he stood on the Bissri Bridge, where the Awali runs down to the Mediterranean north of Sidon. "We are not building an electrified fence and we are not going to construct some sort of Maginot line. We can't possibly prevent all infiltration across the river but we can reduce it. The main thing is for us to get out of the Chouf mountains."

The continued absence of any military preparations here - the Israelis have yet to start up in the hills south of the Awali -

suggests that Israel's partial withdrawal from the Chouf may be postponed for another month or two.

Israeli troops and militiamen from Major Haddad's private army are expected to man checkpoints at three strategic bridges on a line along the Awali: a concrete highway bridge just north of Sidon, the low "ford" bridge at Bissri, and a crossing point near Barouk.

The new Israeli front line will apparently run along the Awali and on into the Bissri and Barouk rivers - both continuations of the Awali - up to the valley below Ain Zhalta, where the Israeli and Syrian armies face each other.

"Erecting an electrified fence would be far too costly," the Israeli major said yesterday. "We want peace with Lebanon and we don't want draconian measures like cutting the south off from the north of the country. Three thousands cars cross the Awali every day; we can't possibly stop them all."

Whether such aspirations can be maintained once the new front line has been set up is

another question. Already there is evidence that guerrillas are taking weapons and ammunition south of Awali to avoid the expected increase in Israeli security along the line of the river. United Nations troops in southern Lebanon are now uncovering a large number of arms caches apparently hidden in preparation for the Israeli withdrawal.

While Israeli troops will be able to look down into the valley of the Awali from conveniently high mountains, the river is fordable at almost any point. Indeed at midday yesterday, the water at the Bissri bridge in the centre of the river while washing their family car.

If the scale of guerrilla ambushes does not decrease once the Israelis pull back, then new measures - including an electrified fence - will no doubt be considered again.

In fact, the Chouf mountains are still so near to the Awali that the anarchy from which the Israeli Army is trying to escape could yet spill across the river.

Shimon Peres, page 10

Lively debate expected at church council

From John Best, Ottawa

Nearly 4,000 world Christian leaders have gathered in Vancouver for a wide-ranging assembly of the World Council of Churches that could prove to be a highly provocative gathering.

Subjects from nuclear disarmament to Christian unity will be discussed at the three-week meeting, which was opened officially on Sunday by Edward Schreyer, the Canadian Governor-General.

The Council, representing 300 Protestant and Eastern Orthodox churches with about 450 million members, has been condemned by some critics in recent years.

Five years ago it donated \$35,000 (£56,000) to a Zimbabwean liberation group and two years ago it gave \$125,000 to the South-West Africa People's Organization (Swapo).

Reagan woos blacks for 1984

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Suddenly the black factor is making itself felt in the limboing up for the 1984 presidential race. The Reagan Administration is polishing up its civil rights credentials and the Democrats are being teased by the question: will a black run for the presidential nomination?

Mr Reagan does not have much support among America's 27 million blacks. Civil rights leaders have described his record in respect of minorities as abysmal.

Mr George Bush, his Vice-President, was booed at the annual convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP), in New Orleans, last week.

Recently the White House has made a number of positive civil rights moves. Government agencies have been told to give more help to minority businesses, an effort is being made to strengthen the housing laws and the Government has filed a desegregation suit against the state of Alabama.

Reagan officials are emphasizing the President's concern about civil rights, aware that they must tread carefully to avoid upsetting conservative Republicans.

Meanwhile, in contrast to the raspberry given to Mr Bush at the NAACP convention, there was a warm reception for Mr Walter Mondale, the Democratic front runner.

His popularity puts into sharper focus the question of whether a black should seek the Democratic nomination. Some argue that a black candidate could cause confusion and drain support from a candidate who has good prospects and a sound civil rights record - Mr Mondale, for example.

Mr Benjamin Hooks, the NAACP director, in common with many blacks, feels that no black has a chance of getting the nomination and there is nothing concrete to be gained from a symbolic candidacy.

It is much better, he argues, to concentrate on getting blacks to the polls and working for the defeat of Mr Reagan, "who had been on the wrong side every civil rights question".

The difficulty in persuading blacks to register on the voting lists, and to vote, is considerable. Apathy has led to a decrease in black turnout, and black leaders are trying to boost political consciousness and increase registrations. Only three fifths of blacks are registered.

The other side of the candidacy debate is the strongly-held view that a black challenge could only bring benefit to the civil rights cause by exciting both black political awareness and press interest.

So far no black has offered himself as a contender, although the Rev Jesse Jackson, a civil rights veteran, disciple of Martin Luther King and the best known of black leaders, is seen as a possible runner. He has made no commitment, but by fuelling speculation he increases the interest in civil rights and the black vote.

Meanwhile, the NAACP, which has been in the vanguard of the civil rights struggle since its founding in 1909, is in trouble. It is being weakened by falling membership and bickering among its leaders. Some of its followers say it has lost its sense of purpose, and its critics question its relevance.

In part the fall in membership is related to the achievements of many of the movement's goals: it was founded to fight segregation, lynching and insult. But its decline also reflects a lessening of political interest among blacks over the last decade, a muting of the black voice. In the 1980 presidential election only half the registered blacks voted, although there have been better turnouts in city mayoral elections. This time, whether or not a black joins the presidential race, black leaders want the black vote to count for more. They are looking for a revival.

Doctors fail to save arm of golfer

Melbourne - Doctors have failed to save the right arm of Jack Newton, aged 33, the Australian golfer, which was severed when he walked into the spinning propeller of a light aircraft at Sydney airport on Sunday night (Tony Duboudin writes). A seven-and-a-half hour operation ended unsuccessfully early yesterday.

Mr Newton may also lose the sight of his right eye and a spokesman for the Prince of Wales Hospital in Sydney said that he had suffered abdominal injuries. Last night he was still critically ill.

The accident occurred when he was hurrying to board the aircraft on his way home to Newcastle from Sydney, where he and some friends had travelled to see an Australian Rules football match.

Lawyer had two Sam missiles

Islamabad (AFP) - Pakistani martial law authorities have seized two Sam 7 surface-to-air missiles from a lawyer's office in Lahore.

The Associated Press of Pakistan news agency, quoting an official communiqué, said the missiles were found at a barrister's chambers in Farid Kot.

Second twin born safely

St Louis, Missouri (AP) - A woman, who miscarried one of her twin babies three and a half months ago, has successfully had the second twin, a 6lb 14oz baby.

Her doctor said the case was unique in the United States. Only one similar one existed - a German woman gave birth to a twin in 1978, 65 days after the first was delivered.

Sea hitchhikers

Copenhagen (AP) - Thirteen people are to appear in court after three of them hitched a ride from a passenger ferry to pull them on waterskis across the strait between the Danish islands of Zealand and Funen. Police said it was an advertising stunt.

Dhaka pledge

Dhaka (Reuters) - General Hossain Muhammad Ershad, Bangladesh's military ruler, said he will restore the constitution and hold national elections by March 1985. He declared martial law when he deposed President Abdus Sattar in March, 1982.

Horses rescued

Fiber, Austria (AP) - A stable at the Lippiziner stud farm was damaged by fire here yesterday but the horses were rescued unharmed. Eight mares and 31 foals died in an epidemic this year.

Pipeline ready

Moscow (AP) - The Soviet portion of the pipeline due to take natural gas from Siberia to West Europe was completed yesterday, Tass said. The whole pipeline is expected to be finished before the year ends.

Tunisians jailed

Tunisia (AFP) - Twelve people accused of setting up a revolutionary movement were jailed here for up to 10 years each with hard labour for plotting terrorist activities.

Azores delay

Lisbon (AFP) - Negotiations for the renewal of US military rights at the Lajes base in the Azores are deadlocked, the Azores delegation reported.

Border escape

Hanover (Reuters) - A 23-year-old East German soldier fled to the West after crossing security barricades, West German border guards said.

Armenian world congress

Terror and the political war

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

The Armenian world congress just ended in Lausanne reflected an ambivalent attitude towards terrorism.

There was outright condemnation of what was termed "blind violence", as typified by the Orly airport bomb outrage.

But the congress charter adopted on Sunday at the end of the four-day meeting - specifically speaks of "struggle in all its forms".

The congress, indeed, heard one speaker assert that the assassinations of Turkish diplomats by Asala (the Armenian Secret Army of the Liberation of Armenia) had served to bring the Armenian problem back to public attention after being dormant for half a century.

Elsewhere in the congress declaration setting up an Armenian national council, Armenians are exhorted to use "every political and diplomatic means to secure recognition of the Armenian people's inalienable rights and for the liberation of its territories occupied by Turkey".

At least 200 participants had

been expected but the Orly bombing caused many cancellations, particularly on the part of US and French Armenians. Among the 70 who did attend were several members of traditional Armenian parties on a private capacity.

Eight Turkish journalists were initially regarded with suspicion and hostility, but later found themselves sitting down to talk with congress participants.

The Armenian national council has the self-imposed task of trying to speak on behalf of the three million Armenians scattered across five continents - 600,000 of them in the United States.

● TEHRAN: - The whole street in front of the French Embassy in the centre of Tehran was closed off by police yesterday after Sunday night's bomb attack on the Iranian justice ministry said (AFP reports). The suspect, who has not been named, was arrested by the Dutch police at Almclo last Friday.

previous bomb attacks. Responsibility for all three attacks was claimed in telephone calls by the Orly group, believed by French police to be connected with Asala.

In a telephone call to the French news agency in Tehran, a woman read a statement warning that the Orly group would strike again in France did not release a number of suspected members of Asala detained in Paris after the Orly bombing.

The Tehran bomb attacks have come at a time of severely strained relations between Iran and France due to French arms supplies to Iraq, Iran's enemy in the Gulf war.

● BRUSSELS: Belgium yesterday asked The Netherlands to extradite an Armenian man suspected of assassinating Mr Dursun Aksoy, a Turkish Diplomat, here on July 14, the justice ministry said (AFP reports). The suspect, who has not been named, was arrested by the Dutch police at Almclo last Friday.

Roger Scruton, page 10

US transports fly in aid for Habré offensive against rebels

Ndjamena (AFP) - The first of six C141 Starliner transports of the United States Air Force arrived in Ndjamena yesterday with a dozen unarmed Jeeps, a water tank and food rations.

The flight came after the July 9 announcement by Washington that it was providing \$10m (£6.4m) worth of aid to the Chad Government of Mr. Hissène Habré in his fight against the Libyan-backed forces of his ousted predecessor, Mr. Goukouni Oueddei.

First out of the aircraft were 10 men, who set up a small command post to communicate with the Sixth Fleet, raising off Libya, in the Gulf of Gine.

Sources said the Americans are taking precautions against possible intervention against the airfield by Libyan fighters, these included a radar aircraft in patrol for the three days in which the Starliners will be flying to Ndjamena, and fighters on stand-by on Sixth Fleet ships.

Yesterday, the C141 kept its engines running as Chadians edged to unload the cargo, aided by the United States ambassador to Chad, Mr. Peter Hoff.

Mr. Hissène Habré, the Chad Information Minister, said a second aircraft was due in the day. A United States source said the aircraft were being sent from America.

Ndjamena basks in confidence
On just about every wall in the capital, there are posters of Mr. Habré, with slogans in French and Arabic exhorting the populace to support the struggle against the insurgents (Clifford May of the New York Times writes).

The posters show the president in fatigues as a guerrilla leader, in a dark suit as a statesman and in a military uniform as a devout Muslim. Western diplomats describe him as a charismatic leader who is personally responsible in part at least for the recent successes of his forces in turning back the Libyan-supported insurgents of Mr. Goukouni.

A week ago, as Mr. Habré's forces were reported to be driving the rebels out of

Abché, more than 400 miles from here, and pursuing them northwards, the President was said to be on the scene, overseeing the counter-offensive.

Last week, his troops were skirmishing with rebels on the outskirts of Fada, 560 miles north-east of Ndjamena, in an apparent prelude to pushing north-westward. Mr. Habré was again said to be with his troops, presumably at a base in the eastern part of the country. The oasis of Oum Chalouba, which his forces recaptured from the insurgents, is reportedly being turned into a well-stocked base for continuing the counter-offensive.

The capital, meanwhile, seems enveloped in a mood of confidence that government troops will soon be battling the rebels for control of the northern town of Faya-Largeau, which fell to the insurgents on June 24. Residents here who this month were afraid the rebels might have driven towards the capital from Abché, the southernmost point of their advance, seem relaxed once more.

Diplomats suggest that the President's forces could over-extend themselves, just as the insurgents did in their drive from Faya-Largeau to Abché. The insurgents' drive faltered when it was beset, far from its supply bases, by swift, determined attacks by government troops.

A main topic of discussion here has been the extent of involvement by foreign military personnel in the hostilities in this country of 4.4 million people. A week ago, officials exhibited a captured soldier whom they identified as a Libyan. They were seeking to support the Government's frequent allegations that large numbers of Libyans are fighting alongside the insurgents.

The captured soldier said that such support for the rebel forces was being provided by up to 1,500 Libyans and by 3,000 African members of the Islamic Legion of Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader.

French press accounts said there were 20 French and Belgian mercenaries aiding the government forces.

Good mood prevails at Hongkong talks

Peking (AFP) - Britain and China resumed talks on the future of Hongkong yesterday, two weeks after the latest round of discussions began. A statement is to be made tomorrow.

The statement should be made by the Chinese Foreign Ministry on behalf of both delegations and should announce the dates of the next round expected within the next two months.

The seven-member Chinese delegation is led by Yao Guang, First Deputy Foreign Minister, and Sir Percy Cradock, the British Ambassador to China, leads Britain's delegation, which includes Sir Edward Youde, the Governor of Hongkong. Sir Edward appeared to be playing a central part in the talks.

The two sides met in the presence of 50 journalists, photographers and television cameramen, most of them from Hongkong.

The atmosphere was relaxed and delegates exchanged jokes for a few minutes while journalists were allowed inside the meeting room, which has a large picture of the house in Shaoshan, central China, where Mao Tse-tung was born.

In Hongkong, the *Ta Kung Pao* daily, which is close to Peking, forecast that a "reasonable and honourable" solution would be found for Hongkong in the next few months. China has said it means to resume sovereignty over the British Colony.



Rose Kennedy being presented with a cake on her ninety-third birthday by her daughter, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, with her son, Senator Edward Kennedy, and daughter, Jean Kennedy Smith, looking on at her Massachusetts home.

Police say abandoned baby is Coloured

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg

Lise Venter, the baby found abandoned in the open veld wrapped only in two thin blankets and a brown bag, has been "scientifically determined" by the South African police to be of "mixed race", a senior police spokesman said yesterday.

Major H. V. Haynes Pretoria

Police headquarters said the test of racial identity had been carried out only to help the police in tracing the parents of the abandoned child, who is less than three weeks old. It was not yet an official racial classification.

The police described as "pure speculation" suggestions in the local press that Lise - the name was given to her by staff at the

hospital to which she was taken after being found - could have been abandoned by a white woman fearful of prosecution under the Immorality Act, which prohibits sexual relations between whites and blacks.

Under the Population Registration Act everyone born in South Africa has to be assigned to one of three broad race groups - Whites, Coloured

(mixed-race) and Africans (blacks of Bantu origin). Indians, Chinese and a number of other ethnic minorities are regarded as separate subdivisions of the coloured group.

The normal test of race at birth, which is carried out by the Department of Internal Affairs, is the race of the father. The next most important criterion is appearance.

Socialists in France hit back at press baron

From Diana Geddes Paris

The Government has decided to join battle against France's most powerful press baron, M. Robert Hersant, who through the columns of his 19 newspapers and some 50 periodicals has kept up a constant barrage of fierce and often vitriolic criticism against the Socialists ever since they took power just over two years ago.

The Government is to prosecute the management of *Figaro*, France's leading right-wing daily and star of the Hersant empire, for contravening the law on price controls after M. Hersant's decision to defy a government ruling banning a cover price increase from 3.70 francs (about 30p) to 3.80 francs.

In an announcement at the weekend, the Government explained that it had decided to freeze the cover price of both *Le Figaro* and *France Soir*, the popular Paris evening paper also owned by M. Hersant, and to cut the price of the Saturday edition of *Le Figaro* that comes with a colour supplement from 11.50 francs to 10.50 francs, because the Hersant group had failed to respect a national agreement on newspaper price increases signed by newspaper owners and the Government last November. The Government has the power to control prices under a 1945 law. Infractions carry penalties of a fine up to 200,000 francs and up to two years' jail.

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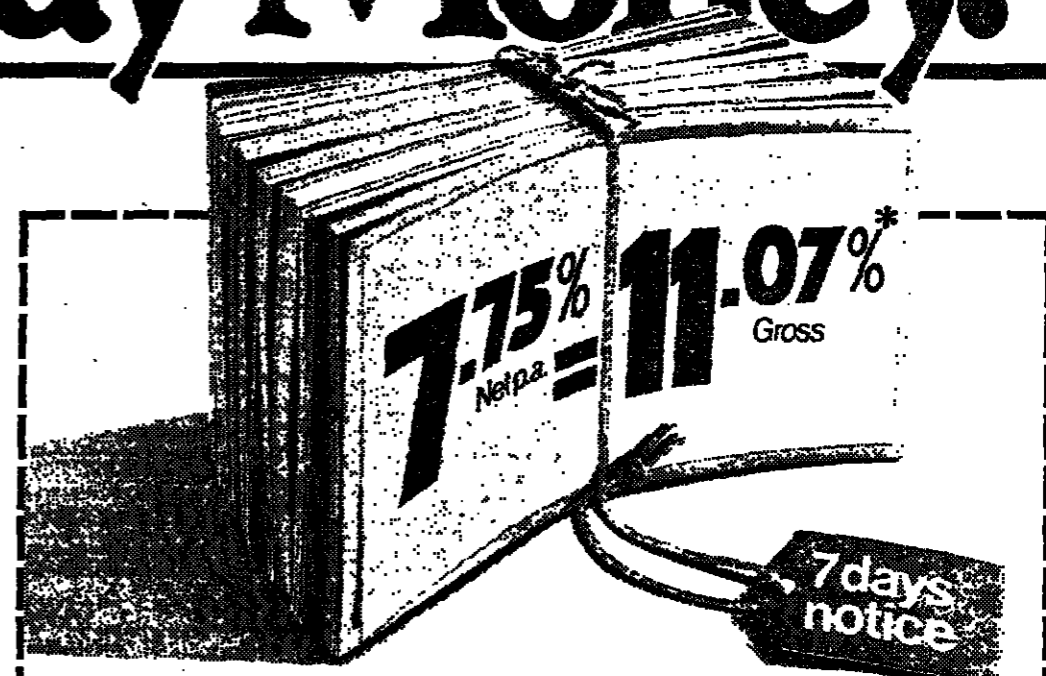
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Prisoners of conscience



Somalia: Arteh Ghalib

By Caroline Moorehead

Omar Arteh Ghalib, a senior Foreign Minister, is one of seven MPs of the country's ruling party, the Somali Revolutionary Social Party, being held incommunicado without trial since June, 1982.

He is believed to be in solitary confinement in Laban Jibow maximum security prison, near Baidoa, where conditions are extremely harsh.

There have been frequent allegations of ill-treatment and torture of prisoners there.

The authorities have given details so far of the basis for charges levelled against the seven that they were "undermining the independence, unity and security of the state".

But they were reported to have been arrested soon after trying to organize Central Committee members to vote against the re-nomination, for a third term, of President Siad Barre.

All seven are believed to have been critical of his rule and of government policies.

Mr Ghalib is 53, a graduate of Bristol University, and arrived with 12 children. At the time of his arrest he was first Deputy-Speaker of the people's National Assembly.

The charge of "conspiracy against the state" carries under national Security Law 54, a mandatory sentence of death and confiscation of property.

In Somalia the death penalty is used for a large number of offences including going on strike, sedition and "using religion to destroy the unity of the nation."



Mr Ghalib: in solitary confinement.

French keep hold on bridge lead

From Keith Stanley Wiesbaden

A resounding 18-2 lead against third-placed Germany gave France a commanding position in the Open European bridge championship in Wiesbaden.

In round 13 Britain defeated the holders, Poland, 12-8, then defeated Portugal 12-8 and in round 15 they lead Sweden by 46 IMPs at half-time.

The British women made an uncertain start in defence of their title with a narrow loss to round two, followed by a 17-2 win against Spain in round three.

Results round 13: Romania 12, France 8; Norway 20, Belgium 0; Finland 4, Sweden 16; Hungary 11, Israel 9; Netherlands 19, Portugal 1; Switzerland minus 2, Spain 20; Britain 12, Poland 8; Lebanon 1; Iceland 19; Turkey minus 2, Ireland 20; Austria 9, Yugoslavia 11; Luxembourg 12, Denmark 8; Italy 19, Germany 1.

Results round 14: Denmark 20, Romania minus 1, Norway 13, Hungary 7, Belgium 16, Finland 4; Poland 16, 7, Hungary 16; 8; Netherlands 16, 9, Norway 16; 10, Austria 17; 11, Ireland 8; 12, Spain 2, Lebanon 18; Portugal 8; Britain 12, Israel 10, Switzerland 10; Sweden 14, Netherlands 6; Germany 2, France 18.

Standings after 14 rounds: 1, France 219; 2, Belgium 185; 3, Italy 168; and Germany 168; 5, Sweden 167; 6, Poland 164; 7, Hungary 163; 8, Netherlands 160; 9, Norway 160; 10, Austria 157; 11, Ireland 148; 12, Lebanon 142; 13, Denmark 134; 14, Israel 134; 15, Britain 131; Romania 131; 17, Switzerland 128; 18, Luxembourg 112; 19, Turkey 102; 20, Iceland 94; 21, Portugal 90; 22, Spain 81; 23, Yugoslavia 80; 24, Finland 70.

Results women, round two: Switzerland 16, Sweden 4; France 14, Poland 6; Finland 20, Ireland 0; Italy 5, Spain 15; Netherlands 11, Britain 9; Israel 4; Germany 16.

Results women, round three: Sweden 20, Finland minus 4; Israel 1, France 19; Ireland 6, Netherlands 19; Spain 2, Britain 17; Poland 13; Italy 7; Germany 18, Switzerland 27.

Women's standings after three rounds: 1, Germany 47; 2, France 44; Britain 43; 4, Netherlands 41; 5, Poland 38; 6, Sweden 31; 7, Spain 26; 8, Switzerland 23; 9, Ireland 21; 10, Finland 18; 11, Italy 16; 12, Israel 6.

Uganda MPs given bail

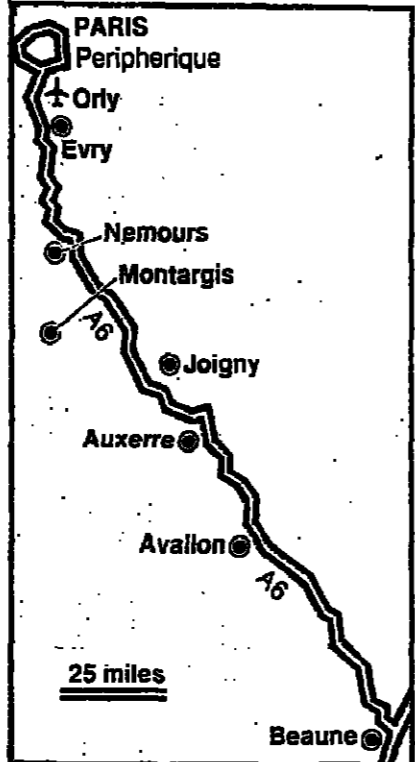
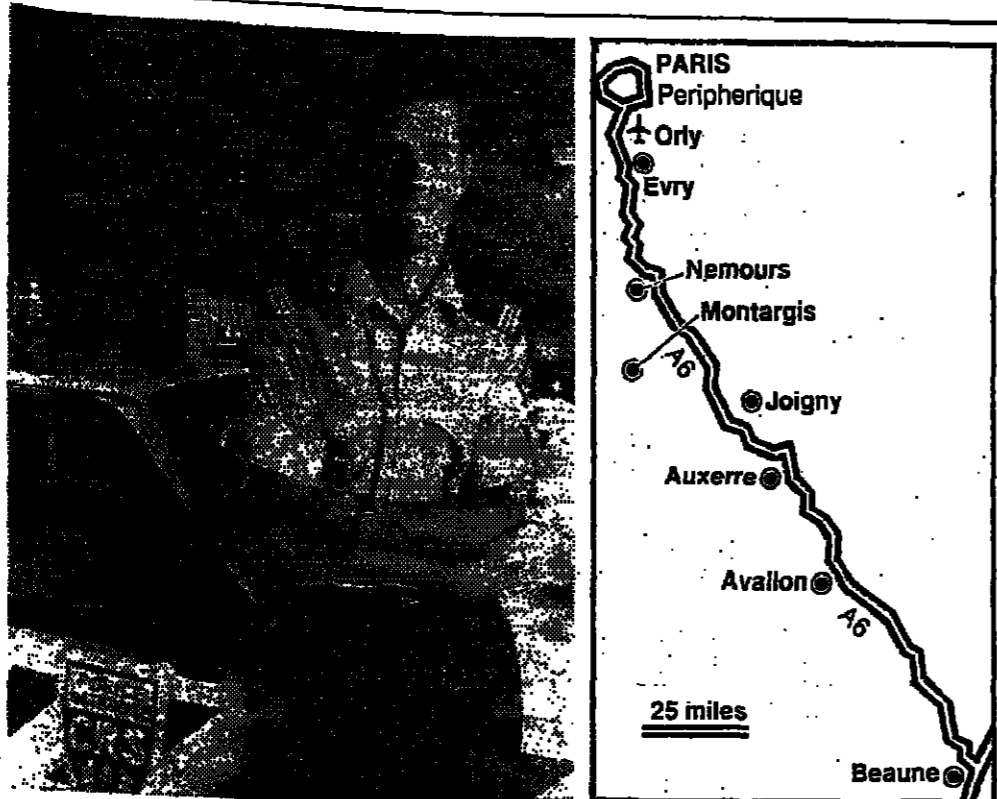
Kampala (AFP) - Two Ugandan opposition MPs arrested here last Friday were released on bail the following day, Democratic Party officials said. They were held in connexion with dissident activities in the Luwero district north of Kampala.

In Geneva, the League of Red Cross Societies yesterday appealed for emergency funds to assist 60,000 Ugandan refugees uprooted by fighting between government troops and guerrillas.

SPECTRUM

Policing French motorways is more dangerous than quelling riots, according to officers of the force that does both.

Diana Geddes reports on the less well known operations of the men who wear the feared CRS badge



Captain Marthey, head of the CRS police in the southern sector of the A6 autoroute, mapped here; and, right, the autoroute squad at work at the scene of an accident

Life and death in the fast lane

Paris To most people, the CRS means the French riot police – those vicious-looking men behind helmets and riot shields, carrying automatic pistols, tear-gas grenades and batons, who bash students, farmers and other demonstrators over the head with the same apparent gay abandon.

Amazingly, the same CRS (Compagnie Républicaine de Sécurité) are also responsible for the nation's mountain rescue, beach safety, and autoroute security services. A CRS officer may be seen one day in full battle dress charging an inner city riot, and the next on a Mediterranean beach in bathing trunks leaping out through the surf to save a drowning child, or in uniform on a motorway giving first-aid treatment to the injured in a crash.

There were more than five million accidents on French roads last year, which left 13,000 dead and 320,000 injured – an average of 35 killed and nearly 900 injured every day. During the holiday rush – and that means now – the toll is much higher. Some ten million people are expected to take to the roads this coming weekend. France's death rate per road user per mile is two to three times as high as in Britain, the United States, Sweden and Japan.

I spent a day with the CRS autoroute patrol for the 70 miles of motorway in the southern sector of the Ile de France (Greater Paris) area. It is a particularly troublesome sector which includes Orly airport (the CRS autoroute police were very much involved in both the recent Armenian terrorist bomb attack at Orly, and the earlier Iranian hijacking); the Rungis meat and vegetable markets – the new Les Halles, which attracts hundreds of heavy goods lorries every day; and the famous A6 autoroute to the south. Along this the British, Dutch, and French pour in their search for the sun, and many of the worst accidents seem to occur here, including that involving two busloads of children near Beaune in which 53 people died.

I had chosen July 13 as the day on which to accompany the patrol as traffic was expected to be particularly dense that evening before the traditional July 14 long weekend. By 6.30 pm, more than 40 miles of traffic jams were being recorded on the computers in the CRS command post at Arcueil. To my slight surprise, however, Captain Daniel Marthey, the 35-year-old head of CRS autoroute police in

the southern sector, did not seem unduly concerned.

"We can do nothing about the jams," he explained. "In fact, we actually rather like them. They mean fewer serious accidents. People are moving too slowly to get badly hurt. The worst conditions are thunderstorms after a long dry spell, when the roads become like a skating rink as the first rain mixes with the oil on the surface, or after a snowfall."

All emergency calls in the Ile de France area, excluding Paris itself, go through the CRS command posts. Orange telephone boxes, placed at regular intervals of about a mile along the motorways, link the caller directly to the command post, which then alerts the fire brigade, breakdown, and ambulance services, advising them as to which route to take (the most obvious route may be blocked with traffic), and sending CRS motorcycleists to clear their way.

The national ambulance service, known as the SAMU (Service d'Aide Médicale d'Urgence), is a relatively recent innovation. "Up until ten years ago, it was the police who carried the injured to hospital. We killed people, we really did," Captain Marthey said. "The introduction of the SAMU has been a huge advance. The ambulances are always staffed by a doctor; many are like mobile hospitals, equipped with full life-support systems and now, within the last few months, they have brought in an ambulance-helicopter."

"We called out the helicopter last week to pick up an eight-year old boy, terribly injured in a road accident. It was there in three minutes; in another five minutes the boy was in hospital, being operated on."

"Going to an accident isn't funny. It was a terrible scene. Even the doctor was crying when I arrived, and I said to myself, 'that's not a good start'. People often think we're stone-hearted, but it's not true. I'll lie awake at night sometimes thinking about what I've seen. You don't lose your sensitivity on this job, but you learn to control your emotions."

Captain Marthey, a tall, athletic-looking man, smiled wanly as he relived those memories. We had come off the stiflingly hot, clogged motorway, and were sitting with Captain François Langros of the CRS Ile de France headquarters in the relative cool of the officers' dining room at the CRS Company Five base at Mussy; drinking a chilled Beaune wine, and

eating a simple, but good five-course meal – jambon cru, crudité, steak, cheese, ice-cream. "We like to keep up our traditions of warm hospitality and a good table."

And what about their "bash-them-over-the-heads" image? How did that fit in? "It's good that people are a bit frightened of us," Captain Marthey replied. "The CRS here at Mussy were called out last weekend to go to La Courneuve in the northern outskirts of Paris, where a demonstration over the death of Toufik Ouannes [the nine-year-old Algerian boy who was shot dead by an irate neighbour because he was making too much noise] was threatening to get out of hand. The local people heard we were coming, and everything quietened down. If we can preserve the image of the red devil, that actually helps us avoid violence."

Like all French police, the CRS are armed. How often did they use their guns? Unexpectedly, neither Captain Marthey nor Captain Langros had drawn their guns since leaving the officer's training school, and both had thought hard of the last occasion when any member of the CRS, including those involved in riot control, had used their weapons.

The seeming frequent and much criticized police *bavures*, or mistakes, involving the wrongful wounding or even killing of members of the public, were not the CRS's doing, they insisted. "You forget that you are wearing a gun," Captain Marthey commented. "I think that's as it should

be, otherwise you might be tempted to use it."

Both officers were agreed, that autoroute patrol work was much more dangerous than riot control or other law and order work. Guns could do nothing to help them, he said. Motorways were simply very dangerous places. It was for that reason that hitch-hiking was banned on motorways, for example. The public often seemed to be unaware of the dangers.

"You simply wouldn't believe some people's behaviour," Captain Marthey said. "I came across a man the other day who was changing his tyre in the fast lane of the motorway. He said he hadn't wanted to pull over on to a lay-by for fear of damaging his tyre! Every week, we have at least one call about someone driving at top speed down the motorway in the wrong direction. Sometimes they're drunk or have fallen asleep at the wheel, but quite often it's just for a dare."

"Whenever there's a serious accident, you'll always get some people who stop on the hard shoulder, blocking access to the emergency services, in order to take pictures of the carnage, before going contentedly on their way, happy to have a good souvenir of their holidays."

Captain Marthey is proud of the fact that the number of accidents involving injury or death in his sector has been brought down to under 300 a year. The vast majority of calls to his command post, which average 50 a day, involve breakdowns rather than accidents.



Coach carnage: 53 died in this crash on the A6 near Beaune last year

moreover...
Miles Kington

Mills and Bomb

Men prefer facts while women prefer feelings, Rachel Billington once wrote; that is why the former read books about war and the latter read fiction, romantic or otherwise. And in her new book *Animals In War* Jilly Cooper confesses that although married to a publisher of 400 military histories, she had read fewer than half a dozen of them. "In the same way that men spurn novels, particularly romantic fiction, women tend to avoid war books, as being an exclusively guts-and-glory male province."

When two of our leading women writers combine to express the same thought, I tend to treat it as received truth. And then my mind wanders to the next question beyond, which is: if it is really true that there is a sharp divide between men's war books and women's romance, is there not some way in which I can make vast sums of money out of this discovery?

From there it is but a short step to the formation of a new publishing house which will issue novels for men and women – romantic military fiction! Moreover, my new imprint, which is to be called Mills and Bomb, or perhaps Mills and Bang, will shortly be flooding bookshops with the initial titles, of which details now follow.

To Call Him Sir, by Angela Distauff.

When Robin joined the platoon, he had already heard the stories about Sergeant Withers. Tough, cynical, sadistic, they said. And yet there was some soft pool of hurt concealed in the sergeant's eyes, which told Robin that there was an altogether more complex person tucked behind those sergeant's stripes than the world knew of.

"So you're bleeding Robin-bleeding-Darlington-Smythe, are you?" the sergeant said at their first meeting. "Well, we'll have those bleeding hyphens knocked out of you before you can say hunt-bunt."

The tears clustered hot on Robin's eyelashes, beneath the whiplash of these cruel words. How I hate him, he thought. Yet before the war was very much older, the two men would find themselves mixed up in a circle of passion, carnage and ammunition shortage which would change both of them irrevocably.

Jungle Johnny, by Elena Samson.

Major-General Bridget Yates, of the Women's Royal Air Corps, was used to interrogating prisoners. But there was something unusual about the man they brought in one day – his crinkly laugh-lines, perhaps, the proud, unmeasurable look in his eyes or even the way he refused to speak no matter how hard she lashed him with her hand-bag. When he turned out to be Johnny Kapok, the famous roving American reporter, she had an uneasy feeling that their paths were to cross more than once in this hell without food or good cosmetics that women call war.

The Mountain Flower, by Iris Forrage.

A recon in war-torn Afghanistan was just another job to see TV cameraman Max Winton, or so he thought. But he had not reckoned on a meeting with a petite, sparkling Ludmilla, a runaway refugee from the occupying Soviet forces.

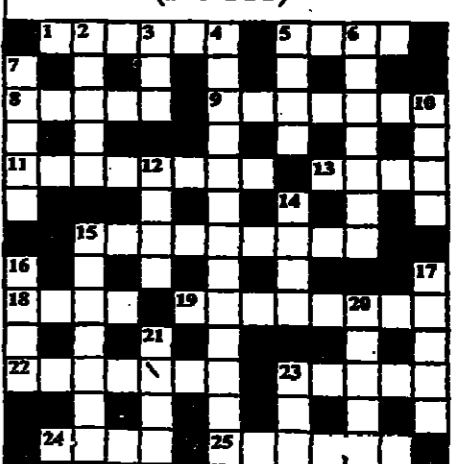
"You can hang around with us if you like," said Max gruffly, "as long as you don't mind carrying the spare camera and the batteries. And don't imagine you'll be getting a slice of our overnight allowances, my little Russian doll."

"Of course not, Max," said Ludmilla, playing with his ear-ring. She had not met men with ear-rings before, especially ones inscribed "BBC News Cameraman Do It Overnight". "Tell me, do you think I could get a job with your Central Office of Information when we get back to Britain?"

Was the COI? Back to Britain? Max thought of his boss at Wood Lane. Would he understand if he returned with a Russian crew member? More to the point, would his wife Theresa? Max decided there and then to ditch Ludmilla at the first opportunity. Little did he realize how signally he would fail, or indeed that there was now a tiny bug fixed to his ear-ring.

(Other titles in preparation: A Third World War Romance by Jean Hackett, Belfast Beauty by Della Driscoll, Yumping Into Passion by Petra Stanley, etc, etc.)

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 111)



- ACROSS
- 1 Snapper (6)
 - 2 Unable to hear (4)
 - 3 Broadcast again (5)
 - 4 Early upsurge (12)
 - 5 Evil action (7)
 - 6 Change (8)
 - 7 Quite good (4)
 - 8 Complicated (9)
 - 9 Intense (4)
 - 10 Abandon (8)
 - 11 Wood flooring (7)
 - 12 Giver (5)
 - 13 Retain (4)
 - 14 Sewn timber (6)
- DOWN
- 1 Eskimo coat (5)
 - 2 White spirit (3)
 - 3 Early upsurge (12)
 - 4 Writing table (4)
 - 5 Synthetic fibre (7)
 - 6 Small bubbles (5)
 - 7 Fifth (4)
 - 8 Indication (4)
 - 9 Coolest (4)
 - 10 Regret (7)
 - 11 Become misshapen (4)
 - 12 Noose (5)
 - 13 Scorch (5)
 - 14 Back deformity (4)
 - 15 Badly lit (3)

SOLUTION TO No 110

ACROSS: 1 Handicapped 9 Utopian 10 Neigh 11 Spy 13 Etna 16 Boor 17 Cabala 18 Mule 20 Felt 21 Curate 22 Rink 23 Glim 25 Her 26 Erase 29 Alewife 30 Depth charge

DOWN: 2 Adorn 3 Drip 4 Cans 5 Pony 6 Epitome 7 Supermarket 8 Short temper 12 Pillar 14 Aes 15 Obtuse 19 Linacre 20 Peg 24 Lying 25 Heat 26 RAPC 27 Mesa

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Augustus loses his reputation

Sir Ronald Syme's *The Roman Revolution* (1939) is one of the most thrilling historical works of the century. Beneath his pitiless scrutiny, Augustus, who had tended to go a rather good press, turned into a thoroughgoing despot, ruthless and fraudulent. Last April, to mark Syme's eightieth birthday, a colloquium was held at Wolfson College, Oxford, at which speakers from six different countries took a fresh look at the first Roman emperor.

Augustus (right) claimed to have restored the old constitution in 27 BC, but he emerged from this conference looking more monarchical than ever. Jasper Griffin, in a paper on Augustus's poets, pointed out how they differ from the third century Greek poets, with whom they have often been compared, when they address their master, Callimachus, at the court of the Ptolemys, can venture a risqué allusion to the king's relations with his wife (and sister); that would be unthinkable in Augustus's time. Instead the poets describe him as a semi-divine figure.

The more we look at the Greek precedents, the more novel does Augustus's style of image building appear.

Examining the evidence of architecture and inscriptions, Professor Fergus Millar drew a similar moral. When the ordinary citizen of Rome looked at the massive public buildings put up by Augustus to his own greater glory; when he cast his eye over Augustus's colossal mausoleum; when he turned to the list of the great man's deeds inscribed on bronze tablets beneath it; he just might not have been clever enough (Miller concluded) to realize that he was looking at a republican document.



Syme's own book drew no explicit parallel with more recent times, but few of his first readers can have failed to think of Mussolini. In the age of Mao and Brezhnev the combination of monarchical self-advertisement and repub-

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research
ROMAN STUDIES

lican forms still seems a relevant object of study. Oxford University Press are publishing the proceedings of the conference and hope to have them out by the end of the year.

Statue find

Among recent finds at Baiae on the bay of Naples is a quantity of plaster statuary – a rare survival. The detail is of fine quality and it seems clear that these are casts of Greek bronze originals, probably for the copyists who made marble reproductions were big business in the Roman world; now we have new evidence of how the business was organized.

Drudgery

The year 1982 saw the completion, after 51 years, of the *Oxford Latin Dictionary*, now the biggest and best Latin-English dictionary in existence. But lexicographers do not face redundancy just yet. The immense *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*, based at

Munich, was started in 1883; it has now reached the letter P, with N omitted. When Dr Johnson defined the lexicographer as "a maker of dictionaries, a harmless drudge", he didn't know the half of it.

Fallacy exposed

Did the Romans acquire their empire in a fit of absence of mind? It has often been held that they were not conscious imperialists; that though they liked loot, slaves and military glory, they constantly conquered foreign peoples without trying to consolidate their rule or their economic power.

In 1979, William V. Harris of Columbia University mounted a controversial challenge to this view. He argued that war was built into the Roman attitude to life; they knew that there were large profits to be made out of empire and their policies were openly expansionist. If successful commanders seem to have pulled their punches, it was because the governing oligarchy would not allow any one individual to become too powerful or acquire too much prestige.

Now some new evidence has been thrown into the argument. It used to be said

that the Romans were not seriously involved in the Greek east before 200 BC. But an inscription from the Greek island of Chios published last year provides for the setting up of a festival of Rome and the honouring of Romulus and Remus; and the letter forms point to a date in the 220s. Some scholars have refused to believe it; perhaps, they say, the stonemason was a particularly old-fashioned character. No doubt the debate will continue.

Amo, Amas

The future of classical studies will depend largely on the strength of Latin in our schools and universities. Latin has had a modest revival in American high schools in the last few years; more surprising, this renaissance has been inspired by the severely utilitarian "back to basics" movement. A study by R. Mascabionto, an American sociologist, on programmes to teach Latin to inner city children indicates that their power to express themselves in English improved strikingly as a result; research in this country by David Corson suggests similar conclusions.

Richard Jenkyns

مكتبة من الأصول

FASHION by Suzy Menkes

SHORTS

All sorts of shorts are now an accepted part of summer in the city. Streamlined styles make for maximum exposure while the sun shines



Sports Shorts (top). Working out in the street is becoming commonplace. Joggers sprint in city streets and the public participate in open-air exercise classes. Cotton/lycra short shorts £19.95. Op-art top £22.99. In turquoise, cerise, aqua, white and black. By Tickets from Harrods. Lillywhites, Simpsons, Javers Night and Day Boutique, Edinburgh and Tickets, 90 High Street, Harrow, Middlesex (E1 p & p).

Action Shorts (above). Tailor-made for fast manoeuvres about town. Cuffed bermuda shorts £16.99 in white, navy, beige by Ally Capellino for Hearts of Oak from Harrods. Lucinda Byre, Liverpool. Ray-Ban 'Wayfarer' sunglasses £27.50 from Whistles. Red mesh top, £4.95, and studded belt, Fenwick. Sailor cap £9.95 from The Hat Shop, 58 Neal Street, WC2. Chain bracelet, Detail. Spotted valise, The General Store, Covent Garden.

Wearing shorts to work is a new idea in this country. Down Under, tailored 'work shorts' are everyday wear for men. Here, men turn up at the office in their squash shorts during the heatwave. (Especially disconcerting are city gents' spindly white knits in scrubby gardening shorts and heavy black shorts on the 8.30 London-bound train). Girls who don't want to be told 'this isn't the beach, dear' should choose a well-cut pair of shorts. Long-line shorts in dark colours like navy are more acceptable for city life than beach styles.

Crisp cotton shorts with side-buckles £20, ochre, white, black. Patched top £32, cream, black. Both from Whistles, 14 Beauchamp Place, SW3 and branches. Wooden necklaces £48.50 from Michaels. Fry, 47 South Molton Street, W1. Tan leather belt, Warehouse.

Side-slit shorts look young and fun for the bar or disco. Khaki hessian with beige suede trim £43. Safari-style top £26. By More and More from Studio 49, 49 Market Place, W11; Dash 55, Stevenson Street, Birmingham 2. Chain jewelry, Detail.

Lunchtime sunbathing in the park has become a national city pastime. Fresh lemon sweatshirt shorts £7.80. Lemon cotton tie-back top with lilac spots £8.20. From branches of Banetton and Tarnato. White watch £22.95, The General Store, WC2. Lace-ups £10, Moony's, 241 King's Road, SW3 and branches.



Zandra Rhodes is passionate about her garden and her work - at this time of the year in that order.

The creator of exquisite and ethereal chiffon dresses spends her spare time with her feet and hostas planted firmly on the ground. From the unpromising 15 foot square back yard of her west London home, she has fashioned a fairy tale garden as extraordinary as any of her works of art dresses.

"The thing that I find most amazing is that because I did all the wrong things accidentally, I have made it look so huge", she says. "I built these enormous steps in the smallest garden in the world and now I can climb up them like a very grand staircase."

The steps are the focal point of the garden and its first folly. They are covered in a mosaic of mirror glass, made by sculptor Andrew Logan - a personal friend and the creator of the striking Zandra Rhodes accessories.

Over the Cinderella staircase cascades a waterfall of greenery. "All the plants in this garden are green and white," she explains. "This white rose has taken over from the camellias and rhododendrons. I realized that the secret of growing things in a north-facing, sunless garden is to read up about the original environment of the plants. If they come from the Himalayas they are going to survive against my wall. I feel the same about the plants as I do about people who work in my business. If they don't perform well they are out."

Zandra admits that when she moved into the rambling four-storey house eight years ago, she had never nurtured anything but a plastic plant - mostly the arum lilies that she used in one of her best-known prints and that have become the Rhodes symbol.

Purist gardeners would be appalled to discover that the plastic plant is with her still - used along with the real thing. Here is an evergreen plastic fern among a clump of luxuriant stag horn ferns and papyrus; there is a variegated ivy draped across the plastic one that hugs an awkward drainpipe.

"I can't bear to have a bald garden", she says blithely of this unorthodox mix of plastic and potting compost. "I try not to have things that burrow into the brickwork or make the wall damp."

The walls themselves have unexpected treatment. To the left of the narrow backyard are cockle shells (subverted from a fish restaurant) strung along the wall over a trellis that is backed with mirrored glass. To the right are Mexican caryatids, brought from a prop shop and made out of fibre glass - as realistic as the noble fibre glass blackmoors that guard the entrance to her sunken living room.

At the summit of the stairway to the sun, is another bit of Mexican party decor - a glass fibre statue of the rain god Chac (who does not seem to have done a very good job of filling the rainwater butt which she reserves for her more important plants.)

The trees are kept in pots to ensure the right soil and watering conditions. In the

The first of an occasional series on how fashion designers live

Zandra's magic garden



Zandra Rhodes: plastic palm, rain god statue and a profusion of plants over the mirrored steps

garden there is a glowing red leaved acer and an American dogwood. ("I worked out that if the Americans had such terrible winters, it would stay alive in Notting Hill.")

On the two flat roofs higher up the house are more trees - a collection of fruit trees that makes an urban orchard in the air, and a magnificent palm that does duty as curtains on the guest room balcony. That palm turns out to be a fake.

Zandra Rhodes holds her business together with a mixture of creative energy, design flair and crushing hard work. Her house and gardens are much the same, built on effort and enthusiasm rather than with money.

She now takes in visits to gardens as part of her work schedule. Manet's garden as a treat from Paris; Wisley for the old English roses on the way to a client's wedding. Her garden-

ing was self taught on an aeroplane from the Macmillan Pocket Encyclopedia of Indoor plants.

"I read it right through like a novel and had this sudden realization that plants can make the place look wonderful."

Will all this horticultural enthusiasm find its way into her work? That now includes a perfume (to be launched next year), knitwear for a Scottish

company, embroideries done in India and a costume spectacular for CBS in America of Romeo and Juliet on Ice. "I thought the other day that the garden was looking so wonderful that maybe I should just go out there and do some drawings", she says. "I'm working on flowers at the moment and my new print has turned out to be a Cubist floral."

Photograph by Nick Briggs

FASHION FLASH

Terence Conran gave birth last week to his latest baby - the revamped, redesigned Mothercare range. While we were still watching the lively presentation and fashion show, another project-to-be was announced: a chain of early teen clothes from the Mothercare group, to be called NOW and opening with five test shops on October 1.

Conran called the Mothercare launch a 'progress report'. Suitably enough, some of the most obvious changes in design and emphasis came in the back-to-school clothes (unleashed in the shops the day that schools broke up for the summer).

There are cheerily coloured shoe bags, satchels and sports bags, all shown with the clothes in a free leaflet. (The catalogue now costs 20p).

The general merchandise is colourful and simply designed, although the slide presentation photographed in the conceptual stages brought home how much thought and work has to go into apparently simple products.

The clothing has changed less than I expected, with the motif still rampant over everything from baby stretchies to track suits and the maternity wear very basic.

As a mother of sons, I think that boys are offered a puny selection. But some of the new girls wear is splendid, especially the Joggers separates in sweat-shirt fabrics and a colourful range of dance wear.

Sexy black bras, scanty French knickers and silky tuxedo suits were the curtain raisers to Marks and Spencer's first-ever formal fashion show for the press.

Having made their statement against the "safe" image of chain store fashion, M and S abandoned their sexy fantasies and settled down to show more everyday fashions, although those included a very good-looking men's dinner jacket (£50) and matching evening trousers (£25). Casual wear is now much stronger, with a sporty workwear gilet (£13.99)

and grey jeans (£16.99) and this colour theme was carried through to classy grey leather trousers (£59.50).

I still find the women's tailoring slightly stodgy, but the country styles - for both sexes - are very stylish, with a selection of easy Aran knits for women and a man's green cord lumber-jacket (£39.95) that will certainly be bought by women. Acknowledging this transsexual trend, M and S showed their simple men's pyjamas and white towelling robes (£25) on their girl models, who looked far better dressed in their borrowed plumage than in their sexy scanties.

With 40 of his Japanese licences descending on London last week, Hardy Amies still found time to unveil his autumn/winter couture and boutique collections.

The day dress was the star of his new line, designed by Ken Flettwood, which included soft, slim wool dresses in quiet colours like brown and grey. For later day, jewel colours like royal purple, kingfisher blue and jade green spiced up the chic but sombre blacks and graphite greys.

The coat and dress - at its most sophisticated in three-quarter length over a slim crepe cocktail dress - is taking over from the suit as the fashion look for the autumn. Soft evening trousers with a kimono jacket and sequinned T-shirt were an interesting evening style.

Hardy Amies, an indefatigable 74, leaves next week for a promotional tour of the United States where his menswear is a best-selling range. For Britain, he is designing a new range of homewear for Saxon lingerie for next Spring.

Meanwhile, he tells me that the couture workrooms have never been so busy, suggesting that there is a renaissance of couture in Britain as well as in France. I shall be reporting from there on the Paris collections next week.

Margaret Howell
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Photographed on location at The Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC1. The Barbican Family Festival (8-21 August) features over 150 events from chess tournaments and children's theatre, to art exhibitions and 'Sound Sculpture', thirty stainless steel pieces for the public to play. On-going attractions include the fountain on the Lakeside Terrace, the Sculpture Court on Level 8 and The Conservatory Terrace. The Centre is open 9 am-11 pm (Mon-Sat); noon-11 pm (Sun). Box Office and Information: 028 8785.
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THE TIMES
DIARY

Cheque mates

This newspaper business is paying better and better. Further to my note about the unexpected bonus paid to Yorkshire Post staff by the company computer (leaving to the finance director for a refund), I now learn that on the same day something similar happened on The Guardian. Eight senior editorial staff, including leader writer John Torode and city editor Victor Keegan, a staff representative on the board of trustees, were overpaid by £1,000 each. No sooner had this pleasant surprise been discovered than they were visited by the editor's secretary, begging for cheques to return the money. The Guardian journalists do not have trusting natures. Some of them have said they will wait to see whether their pay cheques are cleared first.

Dry rot

Dr John Green, reader in climatology at Imperial College, London, says the Met Office are "absolutely bonkers". He is not the first of course. His scorn, though, is directed at a Met Office computer model prediction which suggested that the "greenhouse effect" of increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere could almost destroy by drought the agriculture of Europe, North America and much of the Soviet Union, while benefitting third world countries with more rain and bigger crops. Such natural justice, like hurricanes in Hampshire, hardly happens. "They have conveniently forgotten about absorption on the sea surface," Green says. Atmospheric CO₂ has increased by 11 per cent since the 1950s, but how apocalyptic this is I still do not know.

● J. M. Jerram of Newbury thinks it must have been a Freudian slip that made the management of the Sommerhof Hotel at Gosau in Austria list a vegetable on their menu as "Jung peas".

Steeple chase

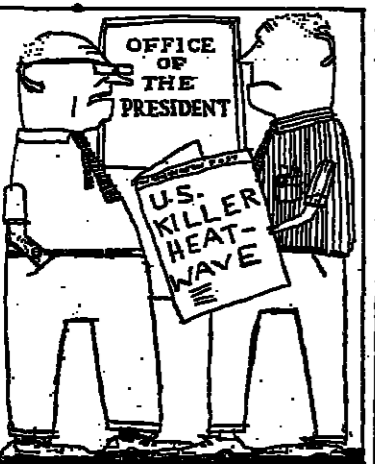
One of London's most beautiful church steeples, that of St Mary-le-Strand, is about to be dismantled as a dangerous structure. The trouble is that iron clamps set in the stone have expanded with corrosion and split whole blocks. Like neighbouring St Clement Dane's, St Mary-le-Strand was built in the early eighteenth century by the Aberdeen architect, James Gibbs. The poet laureate, Sir John Betjeman, has written a poem in celebration of the steeples which, though otherwise unpublished, is being given in return for donations to St Mary-le-Strand's appeal fund. Restoration of the steeple is at present expected to cost £225,000. Donald Stinden, that ornate celebrant of things churchy, will take down the first stone next month.

● A PHSpy reports a Unigate milkfloat trundling down a street in sweltering Stevenage advertising: "The bottle to beat the British winter."

Silly season

I have received from several sources the malicious suggestion that when Sir Harold Wilson chooses his new title he should follow the precedent set by George Thomas, now Lord Tonypanny. No, not Lord Huxton: Lord Scilly.

BARRY FANTONI



Relax, Ronald's told Henry to talk to God about it

Out of line

John Betjeman's television film *Metroland* was recently shown for the sixth time, and promptly became the subject of a complaint to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission. Chorleywood Council took exception to a sequence showing three horses being ridden on the Metropolitan Line track on common land, which, the Post Laureate commented, was better for sport than farming. Riding there was forbidden by by-law, the council complained, and to encourage it was reprehensible. The Broadcasting Complaints Commission does not intend to take the matter any further and *Metroland's* producer, Eddie Mirzoeff, tells me Betjeman found the whole episode "delightful".

Our neighbours the Scots are not as underprivileged as they were under the new Tenants' Rights Act leases, council tenants in Aberdeen are now allowed to dance in their own homes. In Falkirk tenants are permitted to display election posters in their windows, though only for seven days before polling. And in Caithness tenants can hang out their washing but "shall not otherwise expose to public view any clothes or unsightly objects". It does not say whether that would include the kilt. PHS

Avoiding an Israeli Vietnam
by Shimon Peres

It is time for Israel to begin withdrawing its troops from all of Lebanon and to replace them with military arrangements - provided by the multinational force and the militia of Major Saad Haddad - that assure Israel's security.

Israel's forces are stationed in three distinct regions of Lebanon. In the eastern region, parallel to the Syrian border, the Israeli army faces the Syrian army. Syria is not trying to provoke the Israelis, but it is trying to improve its political and strategic position - by strengthening its ties with the Soviet Union, dominating and manipulating PLO leaders, threatening the Lebanese and making life difficult for Israeli soldiers.

In the central region - the Chuf mountains and the Beirut area - the Israeli forces are caught in the inter-ethnic and inter-party clashes between Christians, Muslims and Druze.

Demographic changes have heightened tension in this region: the Christians have lost their demographic majority, and the other communities are hoping, at least tacitly, that Israeli tanks will settle the discrepancies between the demographic and the old constitution based on a Christian majority. But the Israelis can only put out fires; they cannot eliminate the sources of the conflagration.

The southern region, south of the Awali River, is inhabited by a Shiite Muslim majority, some Palestinian refugees and a Christian minority. Major Haddad's forces have succeeded in establishing relative peace

in the region and in preventing the return of PLO terrorists.

The commonly accepted view is that the Israeli presence in the eastern region exerts pressure on Syria to withdraw from Lebanon. However, this very optimistic assumption has not yet been proved, and I doubt it will be.

Even if we agree that Syria is not a Soviet satellite, it is today more than ever dependent on the Soviet Union. And even if we assume that Russia is not interested in direct conflict - neither between itself and the United States nor between Israel and Syria - it is clear that Moscow is not interested in any peace settlement arranged by the US without the Soviet Union. Certainly, Moscow would consider an overall evacuation of Lebanese territory an undesirable American success.

Should the Syrians withdraw, this would also require the withdrawal of the PLO units under its aegis on Lebanese soil (in the Bekaa Valley and Tripoli). But as Damascus is pressing for the removal of Yasser Arafat and for full control of the PLO forces, it is doubtful whether Syria will agree to withdraw or encourage the subsequent withdrawal of PLO units. Finally, Syria believes that Israel's present deployment along extended, temporary lines is burdensome to Israel.

Given that Syrian withdrawal is unlikely, why should Israel pull out of eastern Lebanon? I do not know of a single responsible Israeli politician who proposes that we remain on Lebanese soil in the long term. Eventually, no one would remember the reasons that brought

Israel to Lebanon, but all would be aware of our presence on territory that does not belong to us. Lebanon must not become our Vietnam.

Besides, the closeness to each other of the Israeli and Syrian forces and the presence of irregular forces could easily bring about a renewed confrontation - a third round in the war in Lebanon.

What would happen in the field should Israel leave? In my opinion, the Lebanese army and the multinational force must take the Israeli place. According to the understanding reached in the agreement between Israel and Lebanon, the multinational force (in this case, the French) is to patrol the Beirut-Damascus highway.

The multinational force, the government of Lebanon and the government of Israel must make it clear to Syria that the present Syrian front line will be viewed as a red line and that any Syrian movement westward into Lebanon will be viewed as a deliberate escalation.

As for the Chuf mountains and the Beirut area, only the Lebanese can work out for coexistence there. In my view it would be best for Israel to withdraw from these two regions as soon as possible, and our American friends should help establish other effective military arrangements in these two areas.

In southern Lebanon, however, Israel is faced with a serious problem. In the last year 500 of our best young men have fallen, and about 2,500 have been wounded, to ensure that Galilee will no longer be shelled by Katyusha rockets. This is a heavy and painful price. We would

naturally not wish to remove our army from the security belt of southern Lebanon without ensuring peace for Galilee. But here again we cannot involve ourselves in a situation in which we attempt to control the lives of another people.

Luckily, in this region as well, there is a reasonable though imperfect alternative: reinforcing the forces of Major Haddad. These forces are composed today of regular units (about 1,100 soldiers) and of a rural militia (about 600 men). The addition of several hundred more soldiers would enable Major Haddad to establish order in the region, while the UNIFIL forces that are already stationed in the area can be concentrated at the entrance to the Palestinian refugee camps in order that no harm should come to them.

The Lebanese army can also help in this region primarily in the northern part - an arrangement that is already stipulated by the Israel-Lebanon agreement. Israel itself would of course continue to keep an eye on what happens in this area on its northern border. The defence of this region can thus be organized within two to three months, allowing Israeli soldiers to come home without sacrificing Israel's security.

We must pursue deceleration in Lebanon. A temporary arrangement that perpetuates unnecessary military dangers without advancing our political goals serves no one in the long run.

The author is leader of the Israeli Labour Party.

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Bernard Levin: The way we live now



"Here's another fine mess you've got us into!"

How Garland saw Labour's turmoil in this week's Sunday Telegraph

that the Labour Party has now reached a point at which, if Mrs Thatcher accidentally started the Third World War - indeed, if she deliberately started the Third World War - the response of the Opposition's leaders would be to blame one another for it and to use their next party political broadcast for an appeal to the nation to rally round a programme of more nationalization, withdrawal from the EEC and a substantial increase in the powers and legal immunities of the trade unions.

Have you ever, in all your born days, seen anything like the way in which the leading figures in the Labour Party are now reeling about like drunks at closing time, bawling one another off the pavement, vomiting over the passers-by and every now and again raising their voices in untimely song? Of course, nerves are frayed after the election defeat, with its 119 lost Labour deposits; of course Mr Foot's abrupt abandonment of the helm (everything in his political life became him like the leaving of it) has meant that the rival contenders for the succession have hardly had time to think about their own tactics, let alone the party's future; of course the *seize the day* in the lifeboat is the fiercer if there is only one cup of water left. But though a man with a headache will certainly experience immediate relief if he cuts his throat, few doctors, however unorthodox their methods, would recommend such action by way of treatment.

It is no use telling them that if two dogs go on fighting long enough over a bone a passing cat will make off with it; the truth is that the struggle over the dying body of the Labour Party, however little significance it may have *sub specie aeternitatis*, seems to have a real meaning for those involved in it. The Labour Party must - now, not later - go in

Mr Hattersley would serve under anybody ('My friend Genghis and I have our differences, but...')

one direction or the other; it must be a modern, outward-looking, fully democratic institution, able to appeal to the voters, perception of their own and the country's interests, or it will be a group of deadbeats and fanatics, its policies increasingly remote from the real world and its attitudes increasingly totalitarian.

It is no use telling them, either, that their West German counterparts once faced similar choice, chose rightly and in consequence spent more than a decade in office; when Willy Brandt addressed the Labour Party Conference and rashly expressed a belief in a West willing

to resist the Soviet Union some of them shouted "Nazis!" at him. In fact, it is no use telling them anything now; they are going to "elect" (a fine word, I must say, for the process, riddled with corruption and intimidation, by which they are choosing their leader) a Welsh blatherkite who professes to believe - probably does believe - that the rejection of Labour in June was the result of a failure to put the party's policies effectively to the people, and not at all of any shortcomings in the policies themselves. When Mrs Thatcher contemplates what she will do to Mr Kinnock in the House of Commons, and for that matter up and down the country, her knees must be in danger of going right through the floorboards as well.

And yet, as I say, the fanatics (though presumably not the deadbeats or the Welsh blatherkite) know all this as well as I do. They are willing to compel the party to make the wrong choice, in the belief that if they control the party they will sooner or later stumble across the threshold of government because, say, the Tories have made some huge and unforgivable blunder; whereupon we could expect this country very speedily to become as free as Bulgaria, as rich as Angola and as pleasant as the letters column of *The Guardian*.

What, then, of the rest of them, the ones who want the party to make the right choice? It is not difficult to see what they will do, for it is what they have always done in the past, and it is now more likely, not less, that they will go on doing it. It is being said that Mr Hattersley would after all refuse to serve as deputy to Mr Kinnock, but that is great nonsense; Mr Hattersley would serve under anybody at all, including Genghis Khan ("My friend Genghis and I have our differences, but..."). Screaming Lord Sutch ("...a refreshingly original approach to politics") or the Cambridge Rapist ("I never comment on my colleagues' private lives"), for there is a catastrophic scenario for the future in which Mr Kinnock, moved hither and thither by the hard-faced thugs in the wings, makes such an appalling shambles of the leadership that the party will turn simultaneously to the Long Knives and Mr Hattersley.

Perhaps, perhaps not. I can contemplate with hilarity the prospects of another two and a half months of the struggle, until the results are announced at the autumn conference, but hilarity comes easily to me because I am not a supporter of the Labour Party. I doubt if many of those voters who still, however illogically, look to it for hope and succour will be laughing by the time October arrives; I doubt if many of them should see the scene Mr Hattersley in the next future; it will be because his knees, as well as the carpet, are wearing out. I have circled the year 2008 in my diary.

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because more chilly. The trick was to be like Brutus:

"His life was gentle, and the Elements so mix'd in him, that Nature might stand up, And say to all the world: This was a man."

What we mean by *catharsis* is something like the purification and balancing of the emotions by vicarious experience, especially through the drama. I do not think that there is any exact translation of it. As you might expect, the term is widely and loosely used in psychotherapy, to mean something like the process of relieving an abnormal excitement by reestablishing the association of the emotion with the memory or idea of the event which was the first cause of it, and of eliminating it by abstraction.

The last question is: do we need the new word to *cathart*. *Je n'en vois pas la nécessité*, myself. We already have to "sublimate" if we want to use Freudian English; and to "relieve" if we want something plain and simple. It will be interesting to see whether *cathart* catches on with the trendies.

Roger Scruton

Waging war on the individual

On July 14, a Turkish diplomat, Dursun Aksoy, was gunned down in Brussels. On the next day a bomb went off in the Turkish Airlines kiosk at Orly, killing six people, and injuring many more. In both cases, according to the newspapers, Armenian groups "claimed responsibility" for the outrages.

As a matter of fact, they did no such thing. The Armenians in question wished categorically to assert that they were in no way to be blamed for these deaths, that what had happened was in fact justified retribution, that the crowds at Orly, like Mr Aksoy, were not the innocent victims of atrocity, but "legitimate targets" in a war of just revenge.

This revanchist excuse for bloodshed expresses a peculiar and horrible corruption. But like many forms of moral corruption, it has its origins in sentiments that are inescapable and pure. Those who feel proud of their country may feel rightly proud; and yet they assert, through their feeling, a certain responsibility, which links them equally to their ancestors and to their descendants. Those who accuse a nation of injustice, or praise it for its virtue, likewise acknowledge an idea of collective liability, without which, indeed, it would be impossible to understand either the present world of politics, or the past history of mankind.

It is a small step from these innocent-seeming ideas of collective identity, to the sinful thoughts which animate the Armenian revanchist. For him, the collective responsibility of the Turkish people is born individually by every living Turk. The individual is blamed for actions in which no living individual had a hand, and becomes the butt of an anger which no single person could either soften or deserve. When broad feelings towards a collective become so narrowly focused, their violence is annihilating. The victim is stripped bare of every right, for he is a mere symbol of collective guilt. He becomes an abstraction, who has already ceased to exist in the eyes of his pursuer, and who therefore calls in vain for mercy.

Revanchism is one of many depraved habits of thought which have proved useful in justifying murder. All such habits share the feature to which I have alluded: they turn the individual into an abstraction, so that he may bear responsibility for collective faults. He ceases to be a human being, and becomes instead a type, like the racial degenerate of Hitler, or the "class enemy" of Lenin, Stalin and Pol Pot.

Terrorists often claim to be fighting wars, and to be doing no more than is necessary in war. This is nonsense. War is certainly the natural expression of collective resentment; but it occurs between organized groups, and is fought openly, against a collective enemy. It is possible to fight a war with undiminished respect for the rights of the enemy individual. Indeed, that is the duty of every soldier. But

the terrorist must disregard this duty, and disobey the law of war. His feelings towards the individual are abolished by his loathing of the group, and it is this - rather than his cowardice, cruelty or impenetrable hate - that constitutes his true moral corruption.

There can be collective responsibility only where there is collective agency - that is, only where a group exists which can be praised or blamed for its collective actions. The worst crimes in history have been committed against groups which, because they could not act collectively, could not reasonably be resented. Hence the obnoxiousness of racism. "Races" are not agents, and cannot bear collective responsibility for the faults or actions of their members. People act collectively only through institutions, and whatever a "race" may be, it is not an institution, since no one may join or leave it.

The primary institution in international politics is the state, and it is the state - rather than "the people", "the race", or "the nation" - which bears the burden of collective blame.

This last fact is evident to students of international law, and would be equally evident to everyone, were it not for the fact that the state is too cold, too legal and too inhuman a thing to attract the full fury of human resentments. How much more satisfying it is to punish a people, or a race, than it is to punish a legal fiction.

The Armenian revanchists claim that during the strife which preceded the final dissolution of the Ottoman Empire - large numbers of Armenians living in central and eastern Turkey were massacred by Ottoman Turks. The facts are distorted, and it seems probable that many of the Armenian claims are exaggerated. But suppose they are right. Who is to blame?

The answer, I believe, is: "No one living". And that answer is the one that can be rationally supported. The modern Turkish state, which deliberately turned its back on the old Ottoman Empire, no more existed at the time of these events than the individuals who are now gunned down in pointless retribution. And yet the Turkish state the only collective agency which could possibly bear the guilt.

Of course, such thoughts can do nothing to soften the sentiments of the revanchist, which are necessary to his identity, and enjoyable in themselves, to be modified by reasoned argument. If they should perhaps lead us to ourselves who are really behind scenes. Who really stands to gain from crimes which jeopardize lives and property of the Armenians, and which paralyze efforts of Turkey to retain effective diplomatic relations with its ally? Certainly not the Armenians who have settled abroad, into lives which are far more comfortable than anything that they might presently enjoy in Turkey.

The author is editor of the *Saltish Review*.

Alastair Brett

One way out of the Fleet Street jungle

The dispute which is holding up publication of the *Financial Times* draws on. Twenty-four men are at the core of the argument and they are, in the process, threatening the newspaper's revenue among its constituent elements of the press - journalists, printers and clerical staff - after payment of company's overheads. Breach of one of these conditions would all the asset-holding company to repurchase its assets or stop publication of the paper until the labour-intensive publishing company had put house in order.

But without certain financial guarantees for the fledgling publishing company during a three or five year transitional phase, the Fleet Street unions would almost certainly be violently opposed to such a scheme. However, given certain financial backing and faced with stark choice of participating in a venture or permanent closure even those unions might be prepared to cooperate in the whole operation. However, would be needed to retain professional management, albeit answerable to the workforce, and an incentive-based car structure within the John Lewis style publishing company in order to avoid the stigma of a neo-political experiment like Tony Benn's brave but unsuccessful attempt to save ailing *Scottish Daily News* by turning it into socialist-oriented cooperative.

Without bold new ideas and reaching initiatives, the qual papers of Fleet Street may still in the pressure if the recession continues. The two-company lease back arrangement offers a possible way out of the industrial jungle Fleet Street. It brings some of highest-paid printers in the country face to face with the concept of restraint, the art of self-management and the need to adapt in a changing world. At the same time it requires the press barons to reduce their grip on the media, restrict themselves to a limited return on their capital, give financial backing to a business experiment, if such an experiment were tried, be there to be a company leaseback arrangement made to work, an exciting venture would have been pioneered British industry.

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The author is a solicitor and LE Assistant to The Times.



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PARTY IN THEIR POWER

The Parliamentary Labour Party came into being as the Parliamentary expression of organised labour. The Labour Party's relationship with the trade union movement has thus been central to the history of Labour politics. It remains so today with the Party, in its post-election travail, struggling to discover not just a new leader, but a basis for new hope.

For the trade union movement the high point of its relationship with the Parliamentary Labour Party must have been the Labour government of 1974-1976. Mr Foot, the retiring leader, was then Secretary of State for Employment. It was his task to express in legislation the aspirations of the trade union movement. He worked more closely with Mr Jack Jones than any Minister had done before, probably even in time of war. The thrust of policy during that government was determined largely by Congress House. It was to all intents the trade unions' government; and not a success. That period witnessed a huge increase in inflation, and the experiment petered out in December 1976 with the arrival of the IMF.

None of the four would-be successors to Mr Foot, who have now all written their testaments in *The Times*, has recalled that experiment with any enthusiasm. Only Mr Eric Heffer has suggested that disaster would have awaited the Labour Party if it moved away from the unions.

Labour's relationship with the trade unions has hitherto enabled it to embrace both the aspirations of the organized working class and the tastes of the sectarian Left. They are not often synonymous, but the party's decline has accelerated as the gap between working class voters and the ethos of sectarian socialism has widened.

Each candidate has merits and demerits, but there is a clear

division of philosophy between them. On the one hand, Mr Hattersley and Mr Shore feel that the Party should respond more to the evidence of its falling support by changing its policies. On the other, Mr Kinnoch and Mr Heffer think that the policies are fundamentally sound, but have been badly presented. The first two are thus instinctively set against the system while the second two take as their starting point a basic acceptance of the system.

They are right to do so, since the Labour Party is a system which contains a whole and complicated web of inter-relationships. Its history is less about leaders than about the manoeuvring of groups within it, and the establishment of a ponderous internal structure, which carries its own penalties when a dynamic external political environment cries out for more rapid manoeuvre.

We should not be shocked at the evidence that the Labour Party is still seen by Trade Union leaders as its political form of expression, though we could be shocked at the direction in which some of those sponsors might want to take it. The aspiring leaders should be more concerned at the possibility that the trade union movement will have to reconsider that relationship because its original purpose is no longer being fulfilled. Since the formation of the first Labour government that purpose has gone beyond the demand for mere political expression. The Labour Party thereafter has had to show a realistic chance of gaining power. A tacit understanding between Congress and Transport House usually allowed the politicians the tactical freedom to manoeuvre for power, but the strategic partnership went unquestioned. That cannot be the case now.

After every Tory election victory, commentators tend to

write off the Labour Party. In this aftermath, those predictions look more menacing given the Party's decline from 29.3 per cent of the total electorate in 1979 to a figure of only 19.8 per cent today. That collapse was caused mostly by defections to the SDP. The mistake being made by Labour politicians and trade unionists is to blame those defections rather than to ask themselves why the defection occurred.

In two years' time, when Mr Tebbit's new law will make it necessary for all trade unions to reaffirm the original decision of 1913 in favour of political funds, the 60 per cent of trade unionists who do not belong to the Labour Party might cause some embarrassment to trade union leaders when contemplating that decision, if the Labour Party, who ever leads it, still looks as unprepossessing as it looks today.

Of course the government has the initiative, since voters will only feel the need to search for a viable alternative if there is a general belief that the Conservative policies are not working. That search would normally identify the Labour Party as the traditional alternative grouping. The danger for Labour now is that, regardless of who leads it, that assumption cannot be automatic even though it still has the appearance of an alternative government in the accepted structure of British politics.

The chance for the Alliance will come if Labour's decline turns into a collapse. Labour's chance to prevent that cannot be found, wholly or even primarily, in the character of any of the four candidates for leadership. It is a process which has to concern all the party's elements, of which the greatest historically and still in practice is the trade union element. The unions have the power to destroy their party utterly; do they have the creative power to inspire it as well?

RAIDING THE CUPBOARD

For the government to sell £500m extra of shares in British Petroleum purely to keep its borrowing nearer forecast, is a cosmetic device that should fool no one, and will certainly not fool the financial markets. In strictly economic terms, it is neither better nor worse than borrowing the same amount. Indeed, it has the same monetary effect as funding the extra deficit by an issue of government gilt-edged stock - to avoid recourse to the printing press. It even taps the same £25bn flowing into the big financial institutions for the purpose. Financially, such sales should therefore be treated on their merits as a fund-raising exercise and not pose as an alternative.

There is some logic in spreading the load of borrowing £7bn from a currently sceptical debt market. Building societies, often big buyers of gilt-edged stock, have been hard pressed. The cost of a loan would be more than BP dividends foregone and there is something of a lull before the big privatisation programme starts with British Telecom in autumn 1984.

But a £500m sale has more impact on the share market than the gilt-edged market at a time when booming share prices have encouraged companies to raise £500m in new risk capital last month.

The big institutions, mainly pension funds and insurance companies, put £2.5bn into new UK ordinary shares last year, less than half their investment in

government debt. Investors big or small are not indifferent between stocks and shares. So government share sales are at least as likely to crowd out private firms through lower share prices, as are gilt-edged sales which might raise long-term interest rates.

Indeed, by way of contrast, few industrial concerns have taken advantage of the gap left for them in the debt market. The series of planned transfers to the private sector will provide much more competition for private firms. But for the moment, it must be said, the biggest competition comes from abroad. New figures show that the institutions invested £1.2bn in overseas shares in the first three months of this year compared with £500m in UK ordinary shares.

From the point of view of British Petroleum and its shareholders, the move is equally unimpressive. It matters little today whether the government owns 32 per cent of BP rather than 39 per cent. The state's appointed directors are not there to influence the board in the direction of national policy, as the Rhodesian sanctions episode reminded us. Provided BP remains British, government would exercise strategic control, if need be, by general order rather than shareholder power.

Yet the heart of the matter lies not in economics, not in the mechanics of markets, but in the legitimate suspicion that the Chancellor is taking easy short-

term measures to disguise long-term budgetary problems and delay action to resolve them. As Mrs Thatcher's housewife economics might have it, the Government is selling off the family heirlooms to pay the grocery bills.

The chief grocery bill in question is the estimated £15bn a year budgetary cost of unemployment, which is undermining the Cabinet's most strenuous efforts to keep down public spending, match it with revenue, and stimulate business through low interest rates. The problem seems unlikely to go away, as the latest spending overruns suggest.

When Mrs Thatcher inaugurated her crash monetary policy against a background of high deficits, worsened by the growing world recession, it was both legitimate and desirable to cheat a little with asset sales to try to square the circle and minimize the pain of sky-high interest rates. But assets can only be sold once. There is a large but not endless supply. So this solution is not the right response to a long-running budgetary imbalance.

The City now distrusts an emergency sale of assets in place of borrowing. It feels in principle that this is simply dodging the discipline of markets, which will lend only if government carries conviction in its measures to cut spending, or pays a penalty in the form of higher interest rates. That concentrates the mind far more than reaching in the drawer to find a few more assets to make the figures come out right.

Pacific port of Sovetskaya Gavan. Together with the Soviet Far East Fleet, this route offers very advantageous rates for goods from Western Europe to Japan or Australia.

Yet this is not the result of greater Soviet efficiency. The Labour productivity of dockers in the USSR is far below Western levels. Soviet railways were in such a deplorable state that one of Mr Andropov's first acts as leader was to sack the Minister of Transport. Soviet ships stock up with subsidized fuel in their home ports and buy minimum quantities at world prices; they are built, repaired and operated on wages far below those prevailing in other countries.

The USSR gains large sums of hard currency with which to purchase advanced technology, and if the merchant fleets and shipbuilders of NATO countries go out of business because of unfair competition, there will be no tears shed in the Kremlin. A quota system to ensure reciprocity or to impose limits on the revenue earned is long overdue.

British Telecom in private hands

From the General Secretary of the Union of Communication Workers

Sir, Your editorial (July 18) on privatisation and the special reference to British Telecom has failed to follow through the logic of the argument.

Having pointed out that the result will be a private monopoly unable to be made democratically accountable to Parliament, surely you have conceded a major part of the case against such privatisation?

Surely it is no coincidence that British Telecom and now, possibly, the Post Office too, have become targets for the privatisers? They are now both profitable. For the Post Office this represents a remarkable turn-around from the deficits of the 1970s and is testimony to the efforts of all its staff. For British Telecom the explosion of communications opportunities will mean a potential pot of gold for a few lucky private investors.

Both have achieved profitability and met strict Government financial targets, without any help from Whitehall. Indeed, official limitations on borrowing and investment have restricted the ability of both businesses to modernise.

But the Government wants it both ways. When public corporations are in deficit, they are portrayed as parasites living off the taxpayer. When they are profitable they are sold off. There is almost an in-built incentive to be inefficient.

If your editorial is going to promote the views of the extreme right and advocate privatisation of the Post Office, the unions and management who have co-operated in achieving the significant productivity rises of recent years (4.3 per cent in 1982-83) will take the view we are better off being inefficient.

It is time the public sector was left alone to do its job of serving the public. In the case of the Post Office this means handling some 35 million letters a day and providing a service which, although far from perfect, is the best in the world and operates without state subsidy.

In fact, the Post Office during the year contributed £56m to the Government coffers, thus setting its imposed target in full. By comparison almost all foreign postal services are subsidised by taxpayers' money.

My members have worked hard to help the Post Office into an efficient, profitable public industry and they will fight tooth and nail if the result of their efforts is the selling off of the business.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN TUFFIN, General Secretary,
Union of Communication Workers,
Crescent Lane,
Clapham, SW4,
July 20.

Mad Hatter policies

From the Acting High Commissioner for Zimbabwe

Sir, John Liddington's arguments (feature, July 19) on governments chosen by people, on planless governments and on homogeneous societies are utopian and academically weak.

The age-old disagreement on the "nature of politics", which Liddington acknowledges, results from the fact that no political philosophy is universally acceptable. He, as a political scientist, is entitled to his own definitions of politics and democracy. But they are not universal and cannot be imposed on the people of Zimbabwe. What Liddington is prescribing for Zimbabwe is a tribal conflict. This is highly objectionable.

Liddington's crime is not the weakness of his argument but the fact that he distorts the Zimbabwean political situation in a vain attempt to make his argument plausible. When ZANU-PF won a landslide victory in 1980 it could have formed a purely ZANU-PF government. It could have immediately imposed a one-party system.

But - open your eyes and see - it went much further than Liddington's limited concept of democracy. It invited other political parties to join the Government and allowed like-minded members to sit in Parliament and oppose the Government. The people will vote and decide whether or not they want a one-party system.

Already merger talks between ZANU-PF and ZAPU are under way. One-party system will come to Zimbabwe through democracy and persuasion.

Yours faithfully,
M. S. KAJESU,
Zimbabwe High Commission,
429 Strand, WC2.

Calling to account

From Mr John Parry

Sir, It is fascinating to watch Mr Roy Hattersley adopting in July such Liberal-SDP Alliance policies as an incomes policy, a coherent plan for investment and continued membership of the European Community, after having so fervently opposed them in June.

What will August bring?
Yours faithfully,
JOHN PARRY,
14 Castlegate, Richmond, Surrey.

Relatively speaking

From Mr Richard Walker

Sir, Long ago we were taught that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. But when you say that I am? (Philip Howard, July 19) was emphatic rather than interrogatory; somewhat like (if one may say so) without offence to either party) "Moi, de Gaulle" or that famous occasion in Rheims when the culprit being revealed the monks and friars, heedless of grammar, all cried "That's him!"

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WALKER,
Surrey Cottage,
62 Maltravers Street,
Arundel, West Sussex.

Economic upturn without inflation

From Professor Roy Gregory

Sir, "No one knows", observes Professor Wynne Godley (July 20), what would happen to inflation if sustained recovery were to occur and unemployment reduced significantly, but there is a fair chance it would accelerate again. This prospectus surely does less than justice to the hidden, though not particularly well hidden, rationale underlying the Government's overall strategy.

Why should inflation accelerate if there were a sustained recovery? In part, presumably, because under conditions of fuller employment trade union bargaining power is enhanced and employees are in a position to exert increased pressure on employers.

The answer to that problem is to anticipate it: you modify the law so as to diminish union control over the supply of labour, make picketing less effective, curtail immunities, and reduce the influence of their more militant members. And, unlike the Wilson and Heath governments of the late 1960s and early 1970s, which sought to limit the power of organized labour at a time when the unions were at the height of their strength and self-confidence, you take full advantage of their current weakness to truss them up when they are least able to resist.

Of course, this strategy for achieving economic recovery without inflation is not, of itself, provide a permanent solution, since a future Labour government might repeal the recent and proposed changes in trade union law. This possibility cannot be ruled out. But it can be significantly reduced by including within the package of statutory changes new requirements, the effect of which will almost certainly be to diminish the financial support the unions can give the one

political party which, in office, might indeed bring in new legislation designed to restore their bargaining power.

It may well be, of course, that nothing else curbs trade union power as effectively as does unemployment. In face of market forces legal constraints may prove ineffectual. But to imply that the Government has no strategy for the problem of recovery-generated inflation is not to see the picture whole.

Yours faithfully,
ROY GREGORY,
Department of Politics,
Faculty of Letters and Social Sciences,
University of Reading,
Whiteknights,
Reading,
July 21.

From Mr V. D. Dennison

Sir, "The private sector had borne the brunt of the recession and made significant cuts in manpower and substantial improvements in productivity" (report of CBI statement, July 21).

These significant cuts in manpower are then transferred to the Government's unemployment payroll. Is it any wonder that "Government spending's share of the nation's total output had risen from 41 to 44 per cent"? And if Government's spending is cut, who is going to buy the products of our wonderfully efficient industry - the robots who make them?

Yours very puzzled one-time

graduate of ISE,

VIC DENNISON,
Heathcote,
The Bath,
Churchill,
Bristol,
Avon,
July 21.

Afghan conflict

From Mr M. A. Naim

Sir, As an Afghan, I would like to comment on the report in *The Times* (July 11) that the "jigsaw of an agreement" on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan was missing a "wholly crucial piece" - an indication by the Russians of the schedule they have in mind for withdrawal.

The question at issue is the armed uprising of the Afghan nation against circumstances created by the Soviet intervention in our country's internal affairs and subsequently her naked invasion.

The nature of this question is purely political. The problems of refugees or any other human factors are its aftermath. Any attempt to resolve the aftermath without serious consideration to the core of the conflict is fruitless, unjust, irrational, and unyielding of any positive results.

The confronting sides of the Afghan conflict - Russia, and the entire people of Afghanistan - are not represented at the Geneva indirect talks. The Karmal regime has neither the authority nor the ability to represent the Afghan nation.

Without consultation, consent and participation of the Afghan nation through their elected representatives, any solution imposed or guaranteed by outside interests is

doomed to failure. The people of Afghanistan did not create the present conflict and they have no obligation to take the first step towards a political solution.

If the USSR prefers any political solution, she should take the first positive step in this direction by withdrawing her troops totally and unconditionally. She should pledge not to interfere in Afghanistan's internal affairs; cease to support the Karmal or any similar regime in Kabul, and respect the right of the Afghan nation to determine its political, social, economic and cultural destiny.

If a political solution to the Afghan question through the UN is desired, then the present procedure should be altered. Its international dimensions require an international conference, under the auspices of the UN. Participants at the conference, (as proposed by Mr Pazhwak, a former veteran Afghan diplomat) should be representatives of the people of Afghanistan, permanent members of the Security Council, Afghanistan's neighbouring countries, and a number of member nations of the UN from all continents, with special regard to the non-aligned and Islamic countries, under the good office of the UN Secretary-General.

Yours faithfully,
M. A. NAIM,
103d Greenacre Gardens, NW6,
July 14.

Divorce reform

From Mr Martin Meares

Sir, The letter from retired County Court Judge Lyall Wilkes (July 14) illustrates very well the judicial prejudice and irrationality which have brought the law to its present unsatisfactory and unjust state.

In arguing for the retention of the present male ticket for life principle, Judge Wilkes talks of "the husband who made his marriage vows for life" being "allowed or encouraged to find himself of all obligation to his wife after the wife's period of rehabilitation is ended". He goes on to deplore the possibility that a divorced husband might be allowed "to pretend that his mistake never happened or should have no unpleasant long-term consequences".

All this might be to the point if the principles on which matrimonial provision is awarded were faultless. It might then be proper for the court to say to the husband: "You have behaved badly and now we are going to make you pay".

The fact is, however, that since the Court of Appeal decision in *Whitfield v Whitfield* in 1972, the courts have said that, in general, the conduct of the parties is not to be taken into account in deciding what financial provision should be made in divorce cases.

What is offensive to the majority of people is that the divorced wife retains her meal ticket even if it was her conduct which brought about the breakdown of the marriage and the husband had behaved impeccably.

Yours truly,
MARTIN MEARES,
Old Rectory,
Haddiscoe,
Norwich,
July 14.

Solicitors' charges

From Mr N. S. Price

Sir, One point in particular made by the President of the Law Society (July 15) deserves further comment. Mr Hewitson says that solicitors provide a "broad range of services for both rich and poor". This is not entirely accurate.

At one end of the scale large and prosperous firms of solicitors provide excellent and expensive services to the City and to industry; at the bottom end some firms and neighbourhood law centres provide services to the underprivileged for significantly lower rewards, and graduation of levels of service and cost lies in between.

So far as the poor are concerned, particular problems present themselves: firstly the unsurprising

tendency of solicitors to concentrate themselves in areas of greater prosperity, and secondly the failure of many to appreciate their rights and to seek advice from lawyers in the first place. As Lord Justice Mathew once said, Justice, like the Ritz, is open to all, but the advent of legal aid has not meant that this aphorism has lost its force. For many a subsidy would not make the Ritz any more accessible or welcoming.

In the long term what is obviously required is a national legal service providing a floor of rights in respect of various legal services for all, through an expanded network of law centres, to be financed from taxation. This idea must await, no doubt, the resources and the will to achieve it. It is probably antithetical to the Law Society, who are after all the solicitors' trade union, much as the National Health Service was to the BMA, the doctors' trade union, and no doubt for similar reasons.

Yours faithfully,
N. S. PRICE,
University of Buckingham,
Buckingham,
July 15.

Crime and punishment

From Sir John Dilke

Sir, When we were very young we were told that in the old days when prisons became overcrowded the judges were sent into the provinces with commissions of gaol delivery. We understood that to mean that when the judges reached their destinations they divided prisoners into three categories: (1) those who had better remain; (2) those who had better be released; and (3) those who had better be despatched to the next world.

We should not lightly disregard the practices of those ages, for they did produce Magna Carta.

Yours truly,
JOHN DILKE,
Ludgate,
Ealingham,
Sussex,
July 16.

From Dr George Bailey
Sir, It is understandable that some new MPs are now accused of deception. Within weeks of pledging support for capital punishment and so being selected as Tory candidates, they have voted against the death penalty. Rightly they will face strong calls for compulsory re-election as practised by Labour.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE BAILEY,
Members' Lobby,
The County Hall, SE1,
July 19.

Night thoughts on farm noise

From Mr Richard Maslen

Sir, It would be interesting to know how long Mr Bertram (July 22) has been living in his present home, but it is a reasonable assumption that the farmland next door pre-dates his house. It is a corollary of living within 25 feet of an arable field that for a very few hours per year there will be disturbance from some more or less noisy and dusty cultivations and harvesting. Presumably the purpose of harvesting the rape seed at night was to make the most of the fine weather before it broke.

Millions of people live a similar distance from roads, railways or factories where there is noise and dirt and atmospheric pollution all or most of the time. Mr Bertram should appreciate that farming is also an industry, not just a picturesque backdrop, and involves certain energetic operations. Like other industries, farming has also to be profitable to survive.

Generally speaking, farmers are reasonable people who wish to maintain good relations with their neighbours. The fact that Mr Bertram's neighbour was prepared to forgo night harvesting in deference to his wishes indicates this. Is it not up to people who choose to live next door to farms to accept that brief spells of seasonal disturbance are an essential accompaniment of the peace and beauty which reigns during the rest of the year?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD MASLEN,
Director of Information,
The National Farmers' Union,
Agriculture House,
Knightsbridge,
July 22.

Beresford Hope silver

From Mr Lewis Massey

Sir, As a footnote to Roger Boyes's article (July 8), and Mr C. M. James's letter in *The Times* today (July 18), it may be of interest to record that the Buenos Aires cup itself, together with two or three silver-gilt ice buckets, and some silver entrée dish covers, were in fact resold to the Embassy by a Polish "dealer", who came to the Embassy in the autumn of 1946.

As the only member of the Embassy staff who was bilingual in English and Polish, it fell to me to conduct negotiations with the man under the guidance of Mr (now Sir) John Russell, the Head of Chancery, and the Ambassador, Mr Victor Cavendish-Bentinck.

From some notes in my possession I see that the man demanded \$1,000 for the lot, not an excessively large sum in days when the pound was worth \$4. The Ministry of Public Building and Works, the legal custodian of embassy furniture, readily agreed to the figure demanded.

However, even before the money changed hands, the dealer asked me to collect the items from his flat, but to come alone and after dark. I well remember the evening in late November, 1946, when I drove through the pitch dark streets of Warsaw (most of which was in ruins after the ravages of the Warsaw Rising and its aftermath) to a flat in a comparatively undamaged part of the city near Okęcie airport.

All went smoothly, and I brought the items (all of them in surprisingly good condition) back to the Embassy.

Yours faithfully,
LEWIS MASSEY,
20 Orchard Rise,
Groombridge,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent,
July 18.

BR's conversion study

From Sir Alfred Sherman

Sir, Your Transport Editor writes (July 19) that Sir Alan Walters and I are "generally regarded as enemies of the railways". This is utter nonsense. How can anyone, least of all a former head of the World Bank's transport section, be an enemy of a transport system? And how can anyone in his right mind believe this? Had your correspondent the professional gumption to get in touch with me before writing, he would have learned that our objective is the optimization of resource allocation, with BR playing its part.

Your correspondent does Sir Peter Parker an injustice in suggesting that the aim of this study is to "defuse the issue" - i.e. dissimulate. The group's aim is to ascertain whether practicable schemes can be worked out which would produce relief roads to the benefit of passengers, hauliers and the public suffering from congested streets, without detriment to necessary rail services. We hope to succeed.

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED SHERMAN,
10 Gerald Road, SW1,
July 19.

Intimations of mortality

From Mr L. A. Latham

Sir, I wonder how many of your male readers of my (1913) generation have had to steel themselves in shops against the iron kindness of the slightly younger (but quite wonderful) wife?

In the manner of their kind, they march us unwillingly into various emporia to see us fitted into coats, trousers and the like, and stand back with pride to declare sepulchraly: "That should see you out!"

Such doom-laden suggestions are perhaps merely a speciality of the rightly thrifty but devoted Yorkshire spouse, but family doctors, and even undertakers, ought perhaps accompany the condemned on such occasions?

Yours sincerely,
L. A. LATHAM,
49 Scarsdale Villas, W8,
July 18.

THE ARTS

Galleries: John Russell Taylor visits current shows in Edinburgh

Spirited reactions to the lure of London



Orchardson's *Her Mother's Voice* (exhibited 1888): an anglicization all too successful?

Consistency in inconsistency: Knox's *In the Cafeteria of the Siedelk* (1974)

Master Class
National Gallery of Scotland

The Edinburgh Group
City Art Centre

Jack Knox
Ruitmarkt

ut upon, ignored or merely ambitious beyond the confines of their immediate society. Scottish artists in the nineteenth century added to head southward in search of fame and fortune. Or, if they did not, they were very likely to be left out of the history books and so virtually forgotten, even in their own country. If the same, they were usually named first in Scotland, and their work takes on new significance if seen in the context of their training, their early background and the art they left behind. A painter such as Orchardson, for example, quite deliberately moved himself to London when he was 30 and courted success at the Royal Academy; for the last 33 years of his life he even avoided altogether the sort of Scottish (and often Scotch) subjects which had obsessed him when young, and did everything to seem just another, though exceptionally well patronized, English artist. And yet, for all that, he remained very much part of the distinctively Scottish tradition splendidly celebrated in the National Gallery of Scotland's major new exhibition Master Class: Robert Scott and his pupils (until October 1).

I begin with Orchardson because, to judge by his work, he is probably the best-

known, indeed the only really familiar, name in the show; his anglicization was all too successful perhaps. But, if the other names in the show may ring no particular bells, the images frequently do - at any rate to those old enough to remember popular history books illustrated with historical paintings like John Pettie's *The Disgrace of Cardinal Wolsey* or Robert Herdman's *Mary Queen of Scots' Farewell to France*. It was all rather what I tend to think of as the brown-Windsor-soup kind of painting, not notably dissimilar from the post-Pre-Raphaelite work of Millais; and the phantom of Millais hovers also over some of the glum Highland landscapes of these contemporary Scots. But then, of course, glum Highland landscapes are just what Millais himself was painting, and, who knows, if there is any influence at work beyond the natural influence of the terrain, it might be flowing from the pupils of Lauder to their more famous English visitor.

But who, you may well be asking, was Robert Scott Lauder? He was in many respects the most important figure in Scottish art in the generation after Wilkie. Not necessarily the best painter - his friend David Roberts, commenting on Lauder's portrait of him in oriental costume, observed significantly that it was "broad and for Lauder dashing painted"; the implication being, correctly, that dash and flair were not normally part of Lauder's painterly equipment. Like many of those who were later to be his pupils, he had an early success in Scotland, went south and settled in London. But there wider success eluded him. The Academy snubbed him and an offer from the Trustees' Academy in Edinburgh, the first art school in Britain to be founded with public money, that he should become director of it provided him in 1852 with a dignified way out of the London rat-race.

In Edinburgh he continued to paint, but his more important role was as a teacher and encourager of young talent. No doubt he was fortunate in the amount of young talent lying around to be discovered and fostered. Probably Orchardson, McTaggart and Pettie at least would have made their way with or without him. But at the same time he seems to have been a remarkable teacher, promoting a rare sense of unity, if not of mission, among his pupils and yet leaving them the freedom to develop in their own individual directions. He seems to have handed on to Orchardson in particular the light, almost sketchy touch which was Wilkie's speciality - thereby providing a specifically Scottish continuity - but elsewhere one finds, even in early works, a hint of crisp Pre-Raphaelite finish in, say, McTaggart's *Spring of 1864*, or a cold Nazarene clarity in Herdman's portrait of his wife, c. 1857.

And where did they not go from there? Apart from London, that is, which claimed the brothers Alexander and John Bury in 1861, Orchardson and Pettie in 1862, Thomas Graham in 1863, Peter Graham in 1866 and McWhirter in 1869, leaving only McTaggart among the major figures to soldier on in Scotland. That, and the relative isolation of it, may have been the reason that of them all, McTaggart developed furthest and most unpredictably, finding his own way gradually to a sort of Impressionism pushing always, after 1900, towards the edge of abstraction. Orchardson became the Austin Dobson of painting, with the sentimental anecdotalism his subjects implied redeemed only by his evident interest in the paint first and foremost, the story some way after. The rest developed into solid (and sometimes better than solid) late-Victorian painters of landscapes and historical or literary scenes, ripe for

the Chantry Bequest. Latterly you might hardly be conscious that they were Scottish, but during the Trustees' Academy's glorious decade under Robert Scott Lauder's rule something truly, distinctively Scottish was begun in painting, and later generations were not slow to take up the torch.

At the City Art Centre we can see where one of these later generations carried it. The Edinburgh Group, informally incorporated themselves in 1912, just 60 years after Lauder took over the Academy. A little younger than the most important of the Scottish Colourists like Ferguson and Peppoe, they shared a number of their preoccupations, and the neglect into which they fell. Interest in the group has been slow in reviving, though Eric Robertson, the best known of them, has received some attention from London galleries of late (understandable considering his weird symbolism and tortured eroticism), while the sole survivor, Mary Newbery Sturrock, is still happily painting and exhibiting flower studies at the age of 91. Again, the show, in Edinburgh until Saturday, and then at Glasgow Art Gallery from August 11, is something of a rescue operation. It is a very pleasant display to visit, light and colourful and on the whole cheery (despite Robertson's taste for rather overwrought allegory). Like the Master Class show, it evokes first of all a vivid picture of a specific time in Scottish art-life, a shared enthusiasm and a degree of youthful eagerness which is later moderated.

It would be hard to maintain that any of those included comes within miles of being a major talent. Robertson is the most distinctive, though his exaggerations must sometimes provoke some unintended amusement. Cecile Walton, who for a while shared a stormy marriage with him, also has a real gift; but tends to be even

funnier: witness *Suffer Little Children*, in which what appears to be a bearded lady pats the heads of a number of dubious moppets straight out of Christopher Robin. John Rankine Barclay's tiny *Paris* of 1911 shows a distinct Whistlerian sensitivity. Dorothy Johnstone's pictures of pubescent girls have a lot of charm, and all around there are light-filled landscapes it would be a pleasure to have on one's own walls. They are all pleasant to know about and know yet a pleasant missing chapter (or at least a brief interlude) in the story of Scottish art has been fetchingly filled in.

It is tempting to suggest, unkindly but not altogether unfairly, that another Scottish group is represented over the road at the Fruitmarket (until August 6, and thereafter in Aberdeen, Inverness, Glasgow and Dundee), except that the group happens to be called Jack Knox. Certainly at a glance this retrospective of more than 20 years looks like a mixed show of maybe half-a-dozen artists. One minute, we get Knox as a sort of homegrown Abstract Expressionist, then as a sort of Alan Davies esoteric symbolist, then an explorer of Blackadder-like discomposures. On one wall there is a series of paintings which contain longhand inscriptions and suggest Magritte, Larry Rivers and Hockney, though not necessarily in that order; opposite are Knox's more recent paintings, monumental still-lives which look rather like the Italian Metaphysical painters of the Twenties and Thirties. Will the real Jack Knox one of these days stand up and be recognized? Perhaps not; and perhaps it does not matter. There is a strange consistency behind the inconsistency, and abundant life throughout. Does he contradict himself? Very well, then, he contradicts himself.

John Russell Taylor

Concerts

New aspirations

Dreamtigger
ICA

The small Seminar Room at the ICA was overflowing for Sunday night's concert in the invaluable *Musica* series, which aims to give a hearing to music neglected by the ordinary run of contemporary concert-hall response, it fills an important gap.

Dreamtigger presented small-scale pieces by Douglas Young, the group's director, Stephen Reeve and Reinhard Febel. Young's solo clarinet pieces *Symbols of Longevity* were dispatched with infinite care and commitment by Ian Mitchell. Taking their inspiration from Korean symbols, these little studies were about aspiration - the low, slow notes of a tortoise reaching up desperately for the high squeaked notes of a bird; the oscillating furies of a mountain stream striving for the peace of the open sea - and the pictorialisms were ingeniously combined with technical exploration of the instrument so

that the clarinet itself seemed to be aspiring to new life. Stephen Reeve's *De la grande thèse de la petite-fille de l'Alsace* - three sections from its first performance by Roban de Saram. I liked the simplest moments best: the gently dancing harmonies of the "vénération pacifique" and "vénération saignée" were most effective. Though it seemed to lie awkwardly for the instrument, Saram played it with remarkable command, and even managed to extract pizzicato harmonies from his cello. Earlier, Reeve's *La Chasse de la flamme*, with its fitting, half-heard piano chords, had proved quietly hypnotic. Finally, Douglas Young joined Peter Hill for a tempestuous two-piano piece, *Regiones* by Reinhard Febel, which started as if it was going to be an unfolding bit of phase-music but through its shimmering, overlapping second movement and tempestuously noisy finale came to sound like a very curious transference back to live keyboards of an electronically-manipulated piano piece.

Nicholas Kenyon

Von Otter/Lidiard
Wigmore Hall

As the winner of last year's Benson and Hedges "Gold Award" for singers, Anne Sophie von Otter had a programme to herself on Sunday night which confirmed her mezzo-soprano versatility. A tall, slim figure, she has already been engaged as a future Cherubino at Covent Garden, and in a range of songs through five languages - she had the exceptionally sensitive support of Pamela Lidiard at the piano: an accompanist new to me, of thoughtful musical partnership.

While it was graceful of the singer to include "The Sally Gardens" and other arrangements of English folksongs by Benjamin Britten, I was greatly taken by three songs by the sea in her native Swedish, composed by Gösta Nystroem, who died in 1966. These have a wonderfully evocative character through their music, and in her sense of poetic vision and warmth of phrasing Miss von Otter was a worthy successor to her fellow-countrywoman Kerstin Meyer, who also used to sing them.

In two groups of French songs, the *Chansons de Bilitis* of Debussy found the singer unduly conversational in some of the verbal phrasing but Poulenc's *Banalités* were characterized with eloquent charm

and diverting spirit. She nicely caught the languorous sweetness of "Hotel" and the allusive humour of "Voyage à Paris", and the more searching sentiments of "Sanglots" were expressively realized in association with the vivid piano writing.

After another Scandinavian excursion into four Sibelius songs, sorrowful and rapturous by turns, the singer ended with an assortment from Hugo Wolf that reflected her sensitivity to word and phrase. In "Auch kleine Dinge" and "Du denkst mit einem Fädchen", both from the *Italian Songbook*, she was charmingly persuasive, and the concluding "Storchentischchen", though more cautiously delivered, had a beguiling sense of amusement.

Noël Goodwin

Janacek and Sibelius are the featured composers in the third and final season of South Bank Summer Music under the artistic directorship of Simon Rattle, which runs from August 14 to 28. The programme opens with a concert performance of Janacek's early opera *Oná (Fate)* - the first time the work will have been heard complete in this country - and later there will be the rare opportunity of hearing all seven of Sibelius's symphonies within a fortnight. Other events include the world premiere of Oliver Knussen's *Marchen*.

Opera

Nolan's visual blaze

Il trovatore
Sydney

Il too few operas are stamped in the public mind through visual impact. Singers, conductors and directors have each in turn dominated operatic productions. But perhaps the time of the artist and painter is about to arrive.

More than thirty years ago Wyndebourne worked with John Piper and, of course, later with David Hockney. Covent Garden continued the trend with Sir Sidney Nolan in *amson et Dalila*, staged with the guiding hand of his fellow Australian Elijah Moshinsky. The latter duo, one of the most exciting operatic pairings in recent years, have returned to their homeland and warmed Sydney in winter with a new production of Verdi's *Il trovatore*, which ignites a visual blaze to match the passions unleashed in Verdi's score of vengeance and death.

From the first this is Nolan's *Il trovatore*. A screen (replacing the curtain) depicts three blue sky snow-capped mountains streaked with a horizontal bar of red - that bar being the Nolan signature as surely asucci has grabbed the G.

The screen rises to show a timeless set: Nolan and Moshinsky have embraced the darkness and pessimism of this work by enfolding the stage in a dark box. A series of fluted columns fill both sides, meeting in the middle to form a giant Gothic arch. Liberal coatings of gloss paint create a harshness allied to the militaristic mood of a well-fortified castle and this time also adds a hint of modernity in which to frame Nolan's evocative twentieth-century backdrops. All the visual action takes place within the Gothic arch, which is removed from time to time to provide a wider vista. All *Trovatore*'s nowadays seem plunged in gloom, but amidst the darkness there are moments of electrifying brilliance.

When Leonora makes her first entrance, in the gardens of the castle, she does so to a series of slowly and separately descending gauzes. The first shows the mountains, the second the moon struggling through the clouds and the third a blanket of stylized flowers. This last has a startling likeness to Monet. Can it be merely coincidental that Monet's *Water Lilies* hangs close to Nolan's Ned Kelly series of paintings in the new National Gallery in Canberra?

Another such moment occurs in the second act when, after a disappointingly jagged Anvil Chorus, Azucena recalls her horrific past against a gauze shimmering like shot silk and bearing the outline of an anguished mother clutching her child.

With such a set it is left to Luciana Arrighi, the costume designer, to create the period and place, which has in any event been changed from fifteenth-century Spain to something resembling Verdi's own mid-nineteenth-century Risorgimento Italy. Arrighi, whose work has been mainly films (*Women in Love*, *Sunday Bloody Sunday*, *My Brilliant Career*), keeps her colours subtle - soft blues and greys and mauves - and then makes much of floor-trailing cloaks which are constantly swished aside to reveal splashes of bright red and blue.

Moshinsky's production is simple, stylized and zestful. He clearly has no intention of competing with Nolan and is happy to leave flashes of insight to the brush of his painter.

To complement the efforts of this successful team, the Australian Opera claims to have assembled one of its best casts under the somewhat cautious baton of Richard Bonynge. Dame Joan Sutherland as Leonora - a role she came to late in her career and which she sang at Covent Garden in 1981 - is adored on her home ground and could do no wrong, although few would deny that "D'amor, sull'ali" in Act IV was faltering and disappointing.

Her Manrico was the only imported singer, the English tenor Kenneth Collins (a late replacement for Francisco Ortiz). He may have lost out in looks to his rival, the Count di Luna (the Australian-born Jonathan Summers) with a voice won Leonora's love with a voice full of passion and commitment, which delighted the audience and gained him much applause.

Azucena is a part that shows Lauris Elms at her best, so much so that it was easy to understand that Verdi was drawn to this hysterical, obsessed character in the first instance and that at one time he considered naming the opera after her.

Performances of *Trovatore* continue until the middle of September, with Rita Hunter taking over from Joan Sutherland in mid-August.

Linda Christmas



Azucena (Lauris Elms) recalling her horrific past with Manrico (Kenneth Collins) against Nolan's backdrop of anguished mother and child

Television

A model of self-possession

Motives, on BBC 2, transfers Dr Anthony Clare's inquisitorial talents from radio to television, with seven public figures offering themselves to his probing - impelled, one would think, by the commonest masochism, though they have the compensation, and this must make confrontation with a psychiatrist unique, that both sides are getting a fee.

George Best took the stand last night, plumper than when he twinkled magically and unforgettably in a Manchester United shirt, and indeed looking less like a striker than the man opposite. It was a match of contrasting Irish accents with Best never in danger of losing possession and Dr Clare not so much fumbling the ball as not being able to find it. In his heyday, many of Best's opponents had the same trouble.

Whatever motivates him in his general behaviour, we did not, I felt, get any closer to it. Certainly he has his own brand of aplomb, for who could sit and listen to the opening recital of background, talents and sins, of chances taken and missed, without, at the first opportunity, beginning to jabber in a self-revelatory flood?

Well, Best could for one. We

shall see about the others. They have all been taped so second thoughts are out. One got the distinct impression that Best had been probed many times before and possibly less gently than by Dr Clare's soft brogue. One could almost hear the exasperated voices, knowing the beauty of what Dr Clare properly called that "wonderous talent", shouting "What the hell is the matter with you, George?"

Sir Matt Busby, whom he admired, must have been among them, probably more gently than that. He suggested that Best see a psychiatrist and, looking back on the booze and bafflement, Best thought it might not have been a bad idea. But maybe that was because he was finding his present situation so comfortable.

His childhood had been easy, the 11-plus had been easy, football had been easy. It was a long time before he had realized that he had something special because he was doing something he just enjoyed doing. Then, all of a sudden it seemed as if someone had taken my enjoyment away from me. The club began to get bad results and it

frightened him to think he could not be number one.

Women and liquor drew him; close relationships with women did not. At home, but for Graham, who obviously knew a thing or two, he had been able to talk his way out of everything. Now he could not. He has been drinking his way out on and off ever since, knowing all the time it would not work. He did not know what triggered it off or when it would be triggered. He might, he said, find himself on a trip after the programme. I thought he might have a motive for that. After this somewhat infuriating example of waste, I felt like a sniffer myself.

Next week it is Mr John Stonehouse for the penitent or impenitent bench. Maybe, at the end of it all, knee-deep in motives, they might add an extra, with Dr Clare taking the seat and someone, properly qualified of course, asking him about his.

Dennis Hackett

● The *Lewis Interview* with Henry Moore, reviewed yesterday from a preview, was in fact postponed for later transmission.

Rock

Altered Images
Hammersmith Palais

Altered Images have made an honest attempt to live up to their name. They emerged at the end of the Seventies from the protective wing of the hardcore punks Siouxsie and the Banshees and were an instant success. Then a four-piece, fronted by the diminutive and effervescent singer Clare Grogan (a co-star in the film *Gregory's Girl*), Altered Images played heavily on a frothy pop sensibility. The chart-buying public enjoyed her enough to put them in the top ten, but a succession of cloying anthems for teenagers did their critical reputation little good. That version of Altered Images is no more.

At this Palais show Clare Grogan took the chance to emphasize the difference by coming on stage in a slinky haute couture outfit. She wasted no time in introducing the new five-piece group and the current Images sound, as heard on their ambitious album *Bite*. They used that as the basis for their set without hiding the fact that the supposed switch from twee pop to a more subtle shade of

disco is as much a joke as the original model.

Altered Images toy with a veneer of sophistication, enacting a succession of fantasies that Clare Grogan dresses down with refreshing candour. Songs like "Now That You're Here", "Don't Talk To Me About Love" and "Bring Me Closer" (their most recent hit) are almost Abba pastiches. Grogan no longer simpers, she sings properly, with power and authority.

The group were less convincing in revisiting older material. The amateur anarchy that once infested "Insects" and "White Savages" was not suited to their funkier interpretations. Stephen Lironi, who arranges the numbers, has given the old songs a

subtle boost that cannot disguise their frailty. There lies the danger for this Altered Images. I am not certain that they can maintain the new deceit. Clare Grogan is not sure whether she wants to be this generation's Lulu or a potential customer for Phil Spector. The uncertainty prevents the band from maintaining a direction. The problem was magnified during the encores, in which they were forced to repeat "See You Later", and by the simpler facts that they failed to sell out the venue. Despite the criticisms levelled at them at the turn of the decade the original Altered Images would have had no trouble resolving those dilemmas.

Max Bell

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Troubled chip market off the chopping block

THE WEEK

By Clive Cookson

Sigma, the British computer graphics manufacturer, has signed a joint venture agreement with Seilac, a spectacular new Japanese enterprise which is said to be the fastest growing of all the high technology companies in that country.

Two years after the company's formation, Seilac already accounts for 80 per cent of the Japanese computer graphics market. This week it shows itself on foreign territory for the first time, in Detroit at Siggraph '83, the big American graphics exhibition.

Sigma marketing director Ray Spiers, who recently saw

the new Seilac 7 graphics system in Japan, says it will worry American competitors (particularly Tektronix, the market leader).

The Japanese machine is a 3D colour system with a performance said to match the best offered by Evans and Sutherland, the Rolls-Royce of the American graphics industry. Its price will be only one quarter of the closest competitor.

Sigma will adapt the Seilac system for Europe, giving it ergonomic features that are missing in the extremely powerful, but rather crude Japanese machines. The ambition is to

sell at least 500 units in the next two years, worth about £8.5m. The longer term goal is to win 30 per cent of the European market, which Sigma expects to reach £187m by 1987.

Marketing Japanese systems in Europe is intended to be the first phase of the joint venture. Sigma and Seilac plan later to cooperate on the development of new products for worldwide sale. Some will be manufactured at Sigma's plant in Herts, Sussex.

Ironically, Sigma technical director Chris Wheeler first visited Japan early this year to investigate the possibility of

finding a Japanese partner to sell British-made graphics systems there. But he was so impressed by Seilac that he quickly decided that there was more scope in bringing the Japanese machines to Europe.

Details of the agreement were thrashed out three weeks ago when Sigma chairman John Massey visited Japan with two senior colleagues, and confirmed a week ago - just in time for Sigma and Seilac to have a joint stand at Siggraph this week.

Sigma itself manufactured a range of lower-performance machines with 2D rather than 3D capabilities. The privately-owned company's growth rate has averaged 80 per cent a year since its formation in 1974 and turnover in the next 12 months could be as much as £9m.

The Japanese company chose the name Seilac - almost unpronounceable by native Japanese speakers - with international cooperation very much in mind. Seilac is the French town where the first international meeting was held that led to the present Graphical Kernel Standard (GKS), the only world standard for computer graphics so far.

ICL has signed an important international trading agreement which should provide the long-awaited breakthrough into the American market for its small business computers.

Computerland, the fast-growing microcomputer stores group, is to make ICL's DRS 20 range available in its 450 franchises (350 in the United States and 100 elsewhere in the world).

Ray Pigott, director of ICL's Trader Point division, who negotiated the deal, expects business worth several million pounds a year from Computerland.

ICL is the first non-American company to be selected by the US-based franchise organisation, which is opening a new store somewhere in the world every other day. Total retail sales through Computerland are doubling annually and should reach \$1,000m this year.

Charles Hansen, Computerland's European manager, said that the DRS 20 range would help the stores move up market and attract more sophisticated business users.

People/Tim Simon of CCF

Sailing through the City

by Roger Woolhouse

"I was a complete dunc at school," admits Tim Simon. "I failed most exams most of the time, and my father insisted I get some qualification in life, whatever it was."

For someone who is now running a successful computing services and software company, the qualification is unexpected. As a keen sailing man, he chose to study naval architecture. But once qualified, this career did not last long.

Disillusioned with a civil service job, he switched to computers and joined IBM. Today, Tim Simon is chairman and managing director of Computers (City & Financial) more conveniently known as CCF, which he founded about eight years ago. With offices on the edge of the City, the company aims to meet the special needs of stockbrokers, investment managers, shipbrokers and others.

CCF's turnover last year almost doubled to £1.3m, but the company has its origins in a stock market slump. After five years with IBM, Simon was becoming increasingly interested in businesses and what makes them tick. In 1972 he joined his father's stockbroking firm to learn about the financial world.

"The index was just hitting its all-time peak," Simon says, "but after I joined it went down and down. Everyone blamed it on me."

It was a painful experience. When he left IBM, Simon halved his salary, basing his calculations on expected bonuses and commissions. But as City business slumped, his salary was halved again.

Simon was married with four children, and started to moon-

light, writing computer programs. Soon he was working late into the night.

"I suggested to the stockbroking company that if they put up a very small amount of capital we could launch it as a diversification. Stockbrokers were looking for anything, however hare-brained, and they put in £1,000 between them."

It was a modest start. Simon was writing tailor-made software for clients, and charging them on an hourly basis. Then in 1975 a firm of stockbrokers asked for help with a computer system.

"We saw this as a way to get into an area we knew pretty well," says Simon, "and also to end up with a product which we could sell to others."

The result was a software package called FISCAL, which is now used by several brokers, and which Simon reckons accounts for 15 per cent of all London Stock Exchange transactions.

"I'm a simple-minded chap," he claims, "and understand plain language. I thought it was crazy trying to turn stockbrokers into computer people. Our approach has always been to put software into the jargon of a particular business."

The stockbroking package was soon followed by several more - for fund management (FIMS), shipbroking (SHIPS), and commodities (COCOFIN).

Tim Simon still works hard, but there is no more moonlighting. He expects the turnover of CCF to pass £2m this year. A Hong Kong office has been opened, and he sees New York as a good prospect.

With a continuing enthusiasm for sailing, he has his eyes on Athens. Handy, he says, for the Greek islands.

The dangers facing programmers

by Russell G. Jones

The job title "computer programmer", together with all its various pseudonyms such as "analyst/programmer", is very much a product of the technological revolution that has occurred during the past 20 years. The attributes required to perform the day-to-day functions of the job have always been thought to be of a rather esoteric nature - most programmers are still required to pass a so-called aptitude test before even being considered for a post.

Nevertheless, an increasing number of people are starting their careers in computing as programmers. Of these, a number have passed into systems analysis. The assumption that a successful programmer should be the right person to analyse and improve business clerical systems has all too often proved to be disastrously fallacious. However, there are still left, in commercial installations throughout the country, armies of programmers writing and, more usually, maintaining an enormous literature of computer programs. What does the future hold for them?

Many have spent a large part of their time reinventing wheels that others, in similar installations, have already invented at least once or twice before. An example is the huge number of existing systems that have been written in COBOL, and several systems written in PL/I, all performing the same basic functions and all written in much the same way. The changes that have occurred in the computer industry over the past 10 years or so have usually left programmers very much unaffected.

Programs have reflected the increasing complexities of the overall business systems of which they form a part, and program design techniques have improved enormously. But many programmers still get on the same techniques, knowledge they acquired in the first six months of their training - five, ten or fifteen years ago.

Some data processing managers are quite happy to pay reasonable salaries to reasonably competent COBOL programmers, who will sit quietly in their corners all day and maintain the aged and increasingly frail sales ledger/payroll/order entry systems that still form the bulk of any commercial installation's catalogue of programs.

Even so, there are a large number of programmers who are living off their fat; either have not, or have not been allowed, to learn of the new techniques that are available or of the advances in hardware and software capabilities that are constantly occurring.

Of all the myriad of forecasts that emanate from those pundits who think they hold the key to future developments in the

computer industry, at least three are fairly safe bets and have a direct bearing on the career prospects of those currently holding the job title "computer programmer". They are:

● Within larger commercial organizations the general, though not universal, trend is towards the use of smaller computers within discrete departments, usually with a corresponding decrease in reliance on the old-style centralized computer. Part of the reasoning behind this is to move the physical location of data nearer to the site of its day-to-day use, but a secondary motivation must not be ignored - to pass control of the use of computers into the hands of the actual users rather than the old-style data processing department.

● Both on the new-style "developed" computers, and on the remaining large data base/data communication-based ones, the future trend will be to "buy in" software products. No longer will systems be written for specific users; instead these users will seek out ready-written packages that fit their requirements.

● The schools and colleges are discharging thousands of people who will not have to "learn" about computers - they will already be second nature to them. Most of them will have a computer at home, and all of them will have been educated to a level of knowledge about computing which will be at least as high as that of the current commercial programmer. They will also be young and, probably, very keen.

All three of these factors are particularly worrying for the current generation of programmers, the older they are the more worried they ought to be. Already computer users can buy packages called "Payroll" or "Sales Ledger". Fairly soon, they will be able to buy packages called "Produce Any Report You Wish" or "Display Any Information From Any Database" - and buy them they will, throwing out all the old programs that formerly provided these functions for them.

From now on, users will not be prepared to put up with lead times of one or two months for programs, or one or two years for overall systems; they will merely bypass the old-style data processing departments and will buy their software as they would their photo-copies. The days when commercial organizations engaged large numbers of programmers to start a computing project to an end. So where will the programmers go? The most obvious answer would seem to be to the assorted software houses where these new products will be manufactured. But will they find employment there? The environment will be much more harsh than the one they will have just left.

All the software houses will be trying to sell in very competitive markets, where, in order to sell their sales ledger package, they will need to convince prospective buyers that their product is better than the hundreds of similar ones available.

They will look for staff who are able to produce programs of a uniformly high quality, can program in a number of languages on a multiplicity of different machines, and can respond quickly and efficiently to the pressures brought about by the dynamic fluctuations in the software market. Where will the software houses turn when seeking these qualities? To programmers who have spent five or ten years maintaining mostly archaic software or to new, younger people to whom computers have been second nature for as long as they can remember?

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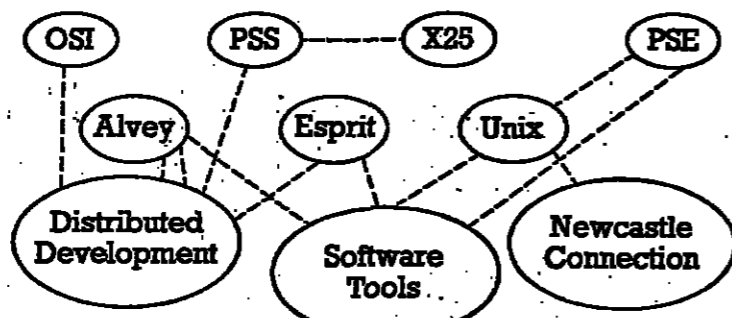
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JOB SCENE by Richard Sharpe

Watch the new boys

Working for a newly formed company in the computer business is exciting, but also dangerous, given the rate of change of such ventures.

Bright stars in the firmament of the UK computer industry have a habit of going out quite suddenly, and to be involved is a depressing experience.

The founders, who looked like the heroes of the hour, often become the villains as management inadequacies are exposed in bankruptcy or liquidation proceedings.

Even worse can be when a fast growth company is taken over by a much bigger concern, probably a rival which had been the butt of jokes and criticism in the past precisely because it was big and established.

Most employees in the computer industry are employed by large organisations and feel more secure as a result. But for those drawn to the exciting life of the new entrant there are five aspects of the company which should get some attention by the prospective employee and the existing staff.

The first test is to discover if the founders of the company, presumably still at the helm, will share control. If they seem reluctant to even contemplate the day that outside interests will be represented on the board then life may soon get tough. The reason is that no computer company in Britain can generate enough profit to fund its own growth. Outside investment is needed to keep going and outside investors will demand some degree of control.

If the founders are reluctant to give up control voluntarily it will be wrested from them as the financial difficulties of high growth inevitably overcome the company.

The second test to apply is to find out whether the books are professionally kept. In many cases methods of accounting that were acceptable for a small partnership are carried through to the day when the company has grown beyond the size that back-of-envelope accounting will suffice.

Third, prospective candidates should find out if the products marketed by the company are going to be supported adequately. A lot of companies put out what they think is a good product only to be bled dry in their early days by high and unexpected support costs. Only if proper provision for support is made from the start will the right plans have been made and the right financial resources allocated.

The fourth test is to look at the staff turnover and find out

who has left and why. Small companies are often dependent on one or two people in crucial positions in marketing or financial control. Once these people go it is important to find out why. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, employees of small and fast growing computer companies should find out whether an adequate management structure is being built to take the company forward. Are the people who can evaluate, control and take the right decisions available to those who need their advice? Or are they becoming more remote yet refusing to delegate?

The cosy atmosphere of a newly formed company can turn into a management clique where the right people are never accessible.

By following these tests computer staff drawn into the exciting world of a new venture can have some of the danger removed while keeping that element of excitement which is the whole reason for working there.

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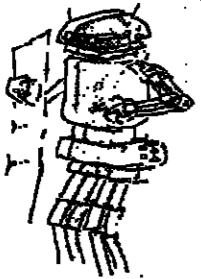
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A small mini or a big micro?

by Dennis Dwyer

a desktop computer a small mini or a big micro? This was a early question posed at a briefing in New York last week when Data General produced its Desktop Generation series of computers.

Edson D. De Castro, founder and president of the corporation, hedged his reply by saying the new family "offers a best of both worlds" understanding, because the United States-based company is foremost producer of mini-computers - with over 120,000 units in operation around the world - and until now has maintained clear of the micro-computer "jungle" where, in a relatively short time, some 300 companies have gathered to compete for shares of a crative growing market.

"Having sat out the first generation of office automation, we believe we are taking the ad in the second generation of desktop computers" Mr De Castro told a group of 100 European journalists flown over by charter Concorde to witness the launch of Desktop Generation. Which means that in common with most other major producers - including IBM - the General was recognized as it must drink in the shallow end of the pool as well as in the deeper waters.

When asked to explain what was happening in the micro-computer industry, he said the definition of the market is now fuzzy. "The market for 16-bit computers produced from discrete integrated circuits has peaked and is in decline, in favour of the 16-bit built out of large-scale produced components."

So there we have it - the Desktop Generation is a 16-bit microcomputer designed to compete in price and performance in the personal-computer sector. The four models are all compatible with the corpor-

ation's own superminicomputer software and two of them can run industry standard systems also usable on IBM, DEC and other makes of computer. Another feature of the series is the capacity for up to four different users to work simultaneously on the system each with a separate terminal. The central processing unit

(CPU) incorporated in models 10 and 10SP has two micro-processors which enable two programs to be run at the same time. The first, a Data General MicroEclipse-processor, will run three of the company's own operating systems: MP/AOS, RDOS and AOS. The second processor, an Intel 8086, allows users to run programs such as

Multiplan and Peachtree-series written for the accepted standards CP/M-86 and MS/DOS. Program languages used are Basic, Fortran IV, 3, 77 and Pascal.

The cost of the basic Model 10 is £2,533 and for this you get a CPU with 128KB of main memory, a single 368KB diskette, keyboard, 12-inch monitor and single supply power module. The more powerful 10SP costs £3,608 and the extras include a 256KB CPU, dual power supplies and a 15MB Winchester module. If you want colour, the price up to £7,328. The maximum memory for both models is 768KB.

Models 20 and 30 do not have the Intel 8086 processor and are for use with DG's own systems. Hardware for these is much the same as for the Model 10SP. The cost of the Model 20 is slightly less at £5,256, while the Model 30 comes out at £7,696, which also includes a floating point processing unit and a 512KB memory card.

It is clear that at these prices the marketing attack will not be directed at the home or hobby user. The drive will be towards small businesses, integrated office management and technical professionals.

A triple approach to sales will be through dealerships, original equipment manufacturers, or - in the case of large company customers - through DG's direct sales force.

Production of the new range will come initially from Data General's plant at Clayton, North Carolina. The company's assembly factory in Hong Kong is expected to start output next January; it has not been decided whether this will replace or complement the US operation. Details of a European-based distribution centre will be made known next month by Mr Ray Fortune, DG's vice president, Europe.



Using Data General's new Desktop systems

COMPUTER BRIEFING

Miracle's big push

Distributors in Germany, France, Italy, Israel and Thailand have already applied to handle the Miracle British portable micro launched by Portico Technology.

Set to become the only dual-processor portable available, when its 16-bit upgrade board is released in September, the 8-bit Miracle offers 128K RAM with fast cache memory accessing and several hundred pounds worth of business software for £1,795. According to managing director Geoff Smith, the 16-bit board is likely to cost "well under £500."

With 800 UK orders on the books, Miracle production is being stepped up to reach 100 a week at the Bedfordshire plant, providing an extra 15 jobs. When Portico Technology's factory at Cwmbran near Newport opens next month, a further 50 jobs will be created and production should increase to about 1,200 machines a month. Mr Smith is optimistic that the company, formed in March, will sell 12,000 Miracles during the first year.

UK Events

8th ZX Microfair, Alexandra Palace, London, August 20.
Acorn User Exhibition, Cunard International Hotel, London, August 25-28.

Computer Open Day, Draganora Hotel, Leeds, September 1.
Video, Audio and Computer Show, Bradford Exhibition Centre, September 16-18.

Home Entertainment Show, Olympia, London, September 17-25.

Computer Open Day Exhibition, Central Hotel, Glasgow, September 22.

Microcomputers in Business, Warwick University, Coventry, September 27-29.

Personal Computer World Show, Barbican Centre, London, September 29-October 2.

Computer Fair, The Sir Frederic Osborn School, Welwyn Garden City, October 2.

European Computer Trade Forum, NEC, Birmingham, October 4-7.

Compiled by Personal Computer News

Just like the hokey-cokey

by Derek Bradbury



The world of computers is full of mystifying words. Take the word computer itself. If you have not yet quite absorbed it into your subconscious you may still find it a cool, inhuman sort of word that puts you on your guard. And it is certainly not very self-explanatory. Most computers do not do much actual calculating, despite the old joke about computer rooms being equipped with an emergency glass case containing an abacus.

It does not help much to look up the word in technical reference books. I have just checked through half a dozen reputable publications. Collectively they revealed - if that is not putting it too dramatically - that a computer is a system (or machine or other device) which operates on (or processes) data (or information or input) according to preset instructions (or programs) to produce results (or output).

The sheer vagueness is bad enough, but when you work out what this means it seems that a computer could be a washing machine, the human digestive system, or even a line of hokey-cokey dancers - you know, following the preset instructions for putting all those things in and out.

Clearly, the technical books think you ought to know what a computer is before you start. And the general reference works are not much better. For

instance, the 1972 supplement to the Oxford English Dictionary tells us that a computer is a calculating machine, especially an automatic electronic one, for doing mathematical and logical operations. A decade later the average pocket calculator does as much.

Computers are supposed to be computers, so to speak, because it so happened that the early electronic machines were used a lot for computation. It would have been more imaginative, and in the lovable English language traditions of sandwiches and wellingtons, if we had called it a boole, a babage, or a newmann after one or other of the inventors who contributed in

their different ways. (I quite like "babage": you can easily imagine them sitting there, babbling away; they would have seemed less threatening somehow.)

Let us have another go at a definition. The computer takes stuff in from the external world and gives stuff out to it - quite often different stuff. The stuff is essentially information in some form, rather than tangible matter. The out-stuff is generated from the raw material of the in-stuff by activities which are automatic, are typically lengthy and intricate, and which change themselves quite drastically according to the stuff being acted upon. The computer is continually modifying its own instructions. It may not be thinking, but it is doing more than following mechanical rules.

At this point I am having a twinge of sympathy for the editors of these reference books. We just have not yet invented powerful enough words to handle the ideas conveniently. More generalized terms such as "information processing" or the French "l'informatique" with still wider connotations, are so hand. But they obscure the real drama: the computer is a device of far greater general capability than any other invention. It handles information, and it takes an increasing number of its own decisions about what to do with it. Language now has to rise to the challenge of letting everyone in on the excitement.

Speak up, the computer will be listening

As computer technology escalates, the market is still being held back by the "techno-fear" of thousands of potential computer users who freeze at the sight of a keyboard and balk at the prospect of communicating with an inanimate object.

The good news is that within five years or so the keyboard will be used only for the most esoteric of commands. Voice recognition will be the norm before the decade is out.

Keyboard bypass technology is already flourishing with the use of the "mouse" which enables commands to be entered by aiming a cursor at "icons" on the monitor. The technique was pioneered by Xerox and has been brought to the mass market by Apple with its Lisa and VisiCorp with its VisiOn software.

But the real revolution in escaping the keyboard will come with voice recognition circuitry - which transforms

sound into digital code that can be understood by a computer's processor.

The technique exists but has several drawbacks, the main two being that only a limited vocabulary can be entered and errors are often made due to variances in speech patterns.

The task of computer recognition of human speech is among the most challenging undertakings by computer scientists. Speech computer products are expected to reach \$750m by 1985 and \$4,000m by 1992, according to the Connecticut market research firm International Resource Development.

One company committed to voice input technology is Voice Machine Communications, a subsidiary of Kinetics Technology International based in Santa Ana. It already markets voice input modules for Apple machines which are claimed to achieve 98 per cent accuracy in voice recognition from a unit

selling for around £500. The module (VIM) processes speech through a 16-channel audio spectrum analyzer.

"In a computer market expected to reach £4,000m by 1992, we see an increasing share captured by systems which utilise this almost science fiction capability of computer comprehended human speech," says Dan Johnson, managing director of Voice Machine Communications.

The advantages of such VIM are obvious. Shorter training hours are required and the operator is free to concentrate on other tasks while simply speaking to the machine.

However even voice recognition could be surpassed by a technique even more futuristic. Electronics giant Atari is rumoured to be researching the possibility of communicating with computers by thought transference.

Ian White

What if you chose Hewlett-Packard as a business computer partner?

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- Gordon Pitt, K Shoes Ltd.

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*AS QUOTED IN HEWLETT-PACKARD LIMITED'S 1982 REPORT AND ACCOUNTS.

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also on page 22

Peter Fiske,
Personnel Officer,
Thames Television Limited,
149 Tottenham Court Road,
London W1P 9LL

Edited by Peter Dear

**CHISLEHUT
KENT**

programmes on poems about professions and trades. Tonight:

8.50
 9.50
 9.45
 11.15

Clyman.
 From 88: Part 2. Dvorak (see
 8.50)
 Nash Ensemble: with Penelope
 Watkney-Clark (soprano). The
 works include Beethoven's
 Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 1 No. 3;
 Weber's Three Lieder, Op. 18;
 Weber's Five Canons, Op. 18;
 and the Brahms Clarinet Trio in
 A minor, Op. 114/1.
 News.
 Open University: 5.30pm-8.55 A
 Market Testimony.

Radio 2

News on the hour every hour (except
 9.00 pm and 8.00 pm) Major football
 9.00 am 8.00 am 8.00 am 8.00 am
 12.00 midnight (5/5/79) 5.0 Coin

Berryt 7.30 Flay 1
Youngt 12.00pm
Workt 12.30 Glos

Including 2.02 Sports Desk 2.30 Ed Stewart including 3.02 Sports Desk 3.30 John Deane including 4.45 Sport and Classified Results 7.30 Cricket Desk 7.30 The American Showroom 8.00 10.20 11.20 Albert and the 5.67 Sports Desk 10.00 are there Were You in 927-4-40 Brian Matthew presents Round Midnight (audio from 1957) 10.00 Bob and the Night and 1.30 Spring Sound 2.00-5.00 Patrick Lumt presents The Sound and the Music?

Radio 1

6.00 Adrian John 7.00 Mike Read 8.00 Simon Bates 11.00 Tony Blackburn with Radio 1 Roadshow in 12.00 12.00 12.45 Mike Smith 3.00 Steve Wright 4.30 Peter Powell, including 5.30 Newsbeat 7.00 Frontline 8.00 David Janzen 10.00 John Peel 12.00 midnight Close.

VHF Radio 1 and 2 5.00am with Radio 1 and 2 5.00am with Radio 1 12.00-5.00am with Radio 2

World Service

World News. 7.09
Diversimento. 7.45

8.00 World News, 8.00 News of the British
 Press, 8.15 The World Today, 8.30 Financial
 Times, 8.35 The World Today, 8.40 News
 10.15 Personal News, 11.00 World News, 11.50
 News of the British Press, 11.55 Latest from
 12.25 The World Today, 12.30 Sports
 International, 12.30 Radio Report, 12.35 A
 World News, 1.25 The World Today, 1.30
 News, UK, 1.45 A Jolly Good Show, 2.30
 News, 2.35 The World Today, 2.40 News
 Outlook, 4.00 World News, 4.00 Commercially,
 4.15 Europe's Uncidy Past, 6.00 World News,
 6.05 News of the British Press, 6.10 News
 6.45 Wagner's Ring, 8.15 Latest from London,
 8.25 Personal News, 8.30 Women in Love,
 10.05 The World Today, 10.10 News of the
 10.25 Scotland This Week, 10.30 Financial
 News, 10.40 Reflections, 10.45 Sports
 International, 10.50 News of the British
 Commercially, 11.15 Off the Ball, 11.30
 Martindale, 12.00 World News, 12.05 News
 of the British Press, 12.10 News, UK, 12.15
 A Jolly Good Show, 1.15 Outlook, 1.15 Report on
 Religion, 2.00 World News, 2.00 Reviews of the
 Week, 2.30 News of the British Press, 2.35
 Women in Love, 3.00 World News, 3.00 News
 from Britain, 3.15 The World Today, 3.30
 News of the British Press, 3.35 News, UK, 3.40
 Reflections, 4.00 World News, 5.20 Twenty-
 Four Hours, 5.40 The World Today.

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SAC As London except: 2.55am
Understand (Gloria Swanson), 4.55
Pia-pia, 6.00 Chwanya Baka? 6.30 Star
Tiger, 7.00 The Great Gatsby, 8.00
Giant, 8.55 Girl on the Train, 9.55
The Girl on the Train, 10.55
7.30 Colony, 8.00 Elmor, 8.45 Green Tie
on the Yellow Dog, 9.15 Fine
Tone, 9.45 Music in Time, 10.45 Ear
to the Ground, 11.40 Tador Face.
12.00am Girl on the Train, 12.15
Closdown.

GRAMPIAN As London except:
10.25am Matt
Jenny on the Wilderness Train, 10.50
Possidon Film, 11.50-12.00m
12.05m Time, 12.15m
3.30 News, 3.30-4.00pm Army,
5.15-5.45 Robin's Nest, 6.00-6.35
Summer at Sea, 7.35-8.40pm 'Brim'
Jack Auld, 11.30-11.45pm
Wallace' 12.05am News, 12.25
Closdown.

ULSTER As London except: 9.25am
Day Ahead followed by
Savane Street, 10.30 Worldmaster Stories
on the Coast, 10.40m Foland Island,
11.40m History of the Grand Park

12.00 Friends of m
1.30 Lunchtime. 3
Hurry! May 5.1

TYNE TEES As London except:
10.25am Flint: Perfect
Women, Comedy, 11.20-1.40 Larry the
Cub: 1.45-3.30 Woodlark & W.
Harley, 7.30-8.30 Br'ng "em Back Alive,
11.30 News, Closedown.

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